



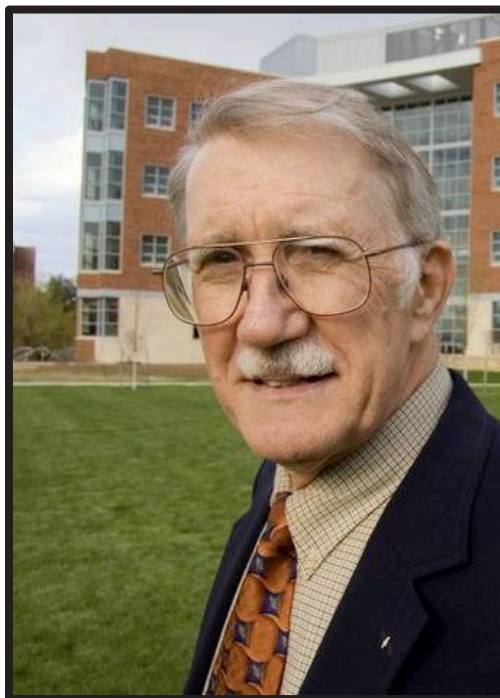
The Taproot

News for Tau Phi Delta Alumni • Published by the Tau Phi Delta Foundation • www.tauphidelta.org

Volume 21

2024 / 2025

In Memory Dr. Charles H. Strauss



One could easily say without an argument, that *no* other Brother has had such an impact on Tau Phi Delta Fraternity during the last half century than **DR. CHARLES H. STRAUSS** (Fall '56).

“Dr. Chuck” as we all knew him, was a Forestry Professor and Director Emeritus for the Penn State University School of Forest Resources.

Sadly, he passed away on September 18, 2024 in State College at age 88 after a brief and unexpected illness.

Chuck was born in Pittsburgh on April 19, 1936. He’s survived by his wife, Carol, and their three children—James of State College (also a PSU professor), Brian of Montgomery Village, Maryland, and Lynne of Freehold, New Jersey.

Chuck and Carol were blessed with six grandchildren and together, as a family, they celebrated the progress and accomplishments of each member’s life.

DR. CHUCK *continued on page 3*

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“News From The Treehouse”

The Taproot

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 navigating to the "Alumni" page.

Awards 'R Us



PennState
 College of Agricultural Sciences

Department of Ecosystem Science and Management



Br. James Cowan



Br. Scott Lyon

Recently, two Tau Phi Delta Brothers were recognized with **PSU School of Forest Resources Ecosystem Science and Management Alumni Group's Outstanding Alumnus Awards**.

The Alumni Group's president, **CORBIN RINEHART** (Spring '08), presented these awards to his two TΦΔ Brothers:

JAMES M. "JC" COWAN (Fall '76 / B.S. Forest Science 1978). Over the course of nearly 50 years, JC worked in a wide variety of forestry positions, including as an International Paper Company intern field forester, a logger for the U.S. Forest Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a seasonal forest technician in Nevada's Toiyabe National Forest, a field forester with Kocjancic and Horn Consulting Forestry Firm, and a research technician for Penn State's Land and Water Research Institute. He eventually established his own highly successful forest consulting business, Alleghany Foresters and Consultants, was owner of Two Rock Stone Company, and for nearly two decades served on the board of supervisors of Huston Township, Centre County. JC is the brother of the late **RALPH LESLIE COWAN**.

He and wife, Lisa, recently moved from Port Matilda and now reside in State College.

SCOTT W. LYON (Fall '04 / A.S. Wildlife Technology 2004, B.S. Wood Products 2006, and M.S. Wood Products 2011 from Virginia Tech) is a forest products specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. While at PSU he was TΦΔ Phi, a member of the Xi Sigma Pi forestry honor society, and a leader of the Society of American Foresters student chapter. At the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, he started as a forest products specialist and has since been promoted to Forest Products Program Supervisor where he manages forest products utilization and marketing, forest inventory analysis, forest economics, and forest regeneration monitoring programs. Scott serves on the Lake States Lumber Association board of director's Education Committee, and was secretary of both the Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association and the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance's Forest Markets and Utilization Committee.

He and his wife, Amy, reside near Green Bay, Wisconsin in Suamico with their young son, Brayden.

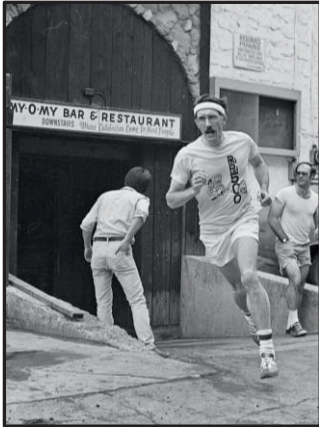
Bros. Cowan and Lyons joined the ranks of nearly two dozen other Tau Phis to have been previously recognized for their professional accomplishments and civic contributions as Outstanding Alumnus of Penn State's School of Forest Resources.

Dr. Chuck

Continued from page 1

Chuck graduated from Pittsburgh's Baldwin High School in 1954 with academic accomplishment and noted athletic ability in distance running.

Years later, he used his running skills to win seven different Senior Division - Phi Psi 500 Races held annually during the spring semester in downtown State College.



All For Charity

You know that 1.1-mile-long run involving paying 25 cents and chugging a beer at five different local bars ... all for charity!

Not sure when and where he developed his taste for beer? Perhaps it was during his freshman year at a mountaintop kegger in the Michaux State Forest. Or possibly during an after-one in the basement of a fraternity house located at 238 East Fairmount Avenue.

Chuck had a love for nature and the outdoors at an early age, so seeking a forestry degree was the logical step. He began his studies, as most did in those days, at the Mont Alto Campus, where he made many lifelong friends.

Always the consummate student, he received numerous degrees while at Penn State: a B.S. in Forestry in 1958, an M.S. in Economics in 1968, and a PhD. In Resource Economics in 1974. Additionally, he earned an M.S. in Forest Products in 1960 at Michigan State University.



Chuck Strauss: Always The Consummate Student

DR. CHUCK *continued on page 4*

Supporting The Taproot

The Taproot continues to provide news about the Actives and Alumni of Tau Phi Delta through the support of our alumni. The "Alumni Update" section of this issue includes many entries provided to us through emails or with the return of the form from this year's issue (page 19).

Each year, our loyal readers 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 individuals have donated \$20 to \$200 for a record total of \$1,280 toward the cost of printing and mailing last year's issue of *The Taproot*. However, this still fell short of our costs to print and mail 890 newsletters.

A special thanks to:

Dick Ausherman	Stan Arner
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Doug Danko	Lee Ebling
Page Etchison	Carl Geesaman
Ginny Glasscock	Bill Herb
Earl Hower	Brandon Smith
Virge Thuma	Tom Witmer
Tom Wolf	Don Young

Please note, that the Tau Phi Delta Foundation appreciates any contribution to *The Taproot* to support their continued communication efforts such as this alumni newsletter.

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*.

Please take a few minutes to complete the alumni update sheet (page 19) or download a copy online at www.tauphidelta.org and return it.

Or send a detailed update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

Dr. Chuck

Continued from page 3

An important highlight of life at University Park included joining the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, where he later served as Faculty Advisor.

During the fall of his senior year, he was introduced on a blind date to an attractive college co-ed, Carol Eibelheuser, from Westfield, New Jersey.

For the rest of that year, they continued to date, attending various TΦΔ social functions including the “Fasching Party” and “South Seas Island Party.”



They were introduced by **JIM DETURK** and his then-date, Sue Cogswell. Both couples married and raised families in State College, with Chuck and Carol tying the knot on December 20, 1958.



Chuck would say that “Meeting Carol was the best part of my education at Penn State.”

While acknowledging that their relationship at that time, said, “I was in, way over my head!”

They were married for over 55 years!

DON YOUNG, who was one of the last Brothers to visit with Dr. Chuck before his passing, recalled, “I remember Chuck and Carol showing up at a couple South Sea Island parties in the late ‘60s at the old house. They always had fun.”

Don further recalled with admiration, “Chuck was also always available and responsive and never too busy. I remember vividly his leadership when we were investigating and then finalizing the purchase of our newer house; he was the catalyst.

There were enjoyable conversations in recent years. He was and is a perfect role model for a Tau Phi Delta Brother!”

While at Penn State, Dr. Chuck represented our fraternity well for all that knew of his association with TΦΔ. He served on the University Senate for 20 years, as well as for 10 years as the faculty adviser to the Forestry Society, the Xi Sigma Pi forestry honorary society, and the forestry program’s yearbook, *Sylvan*.

For his service and many contributions to higher education and forest resource management, Chuck received numerous honorary awards from the university and outside organizations such as the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society. He was recognized as the Pennsylvania Forestry Association’s Rothrock Conservationist of the Year. He was also named Mont Alto Campus Distinguished Fellow in 2007 and in 2008 as the School of Forest Resources Outstanding Alumni.

After 40 years as a PSU faculty member, Chuck accepted the role of Director of the School of Forest Resources in 2001. He helped to organize the design, construction, and fundraising for the new Forest Resources Building, completed in 2006, and the School of Forest Resources moved across the campus from the aging Ferguson Building.



The House That Chuck Built!

The following year, Chuck hosted the forestry program's 100th Anniversary at Penn State Main Campus, complete with a three-day celebration involving over 500 alumni and friends.

Chuck retired in 2009 after 48 years as a School of Forest Resources faculty member.

Subsequently, the College of Agriculture renamed the School to the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, thus making Chuck the *last* Director of the School of Forest Resources.



Penn State's Last Director of the School of Forest Resources

In his later retirement years, Chuck Strauss continued to enjoy hunting and fishing trips with friends, family and more importantly, with various Brothers to Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Mississippi (see page 6), and, best of all, close to home in Penn's Valley and along Bald Eagle Creek.



Rifles, Fly Rods, Crossbows, And Shotguns ... A Typical Tau Phi!

Even after his retirement, he continued his Penn State ties with several assignments at Penn State Mont Alto campus, the School's Forest Resources Alumni Group, and allied philanthropic interests.

Chuck maintained his financial support of Tau Phi Delta, provided leadership advice, and played a huge role in our fraternity's successful Centennial Celebration held in 2022.



A Long-Awaited Centennial Reunion

During this celebration, there was a surprise recognition of Mrs. Strauss for her discovery in 1969 of the sale of the ZBT fraternity house and her continuous efforts to successfully persuade Chuck and other Alumni to buy it.



With the Brotherhood's appreciation, she was made an Honorary Little Sister ... much to the delight of her husband.

Dr. Chuck was featured in our centennial video as the fraternity's longstanding university advisor and with his testimonial he shared his heartfelt admiration for the Treehouse.



"Today, Tau Phi Delta is still known as the Treehouse, an assembly of brothers, with professional and real life interest tied to the out-of-doors. To be sure, we can hunt and fish with the best of them, but as a larger purpose, we are keenly interested in managing these resources and providing access thererof, for future generations."

After thirty years Chuck ended his role as Tau Phi Delta's Faculty Advisor in 1997. He spent many evenings at Monday night house meetings mentoring the Actives on the importance of budget development, planned advance member recruitment, and our fraternity's long-standing traditions.

His wise advice and heartfelt guidance will be sorely missed by all in the TΦΔ Brotherhood.

“Chuck’s Miracle”

By Robert C. McColly (Spring '69)



I first met Chuck Strauss when I was a forestry student in the fall of 1968. When I pledged Tau Phi Delta Fraternity, I got to know him better, since he was our house advisor.

After I graduated, we continued to frequently communicate and eventually became good friends and hunting partners. We talked on a weekly basis about all things hunting, Penn State, and politics ... especially hunting!

I hosted him on numerous turkey hunts at my two camps in Pennsylvania. We also hunted for elk in Idaho. We traveled several times to Mississippi for January deer hunts, as well.

The last trip south of the Mason-Dixon to hunt the late rut occurred in January 2018. We took several deer, and Chuck shot a nice ten-point

At the very end of this hunt was the beginning of Chuck’s miracle.

After hunting hard for four days near Columbia, Mississippi, we left camp at noon on January 23rd and drove to Cleveland, Tennessee to spend the night. We arose early on the next day on the 24th and headed to Pennsylvania, a 12-hour drive.

We were exhausted when we arrived in Ligonier and it was already dark so I urged Chuck to stay the night so he wouldn’t have to drive in the dark. He insisted on leaving to get home to Carol—whom he worshipped as he was a dedicated husband.

After losing that argument, we packed his deer meat and gear in the back of his brand-new Acura MDX (that we had stored inside my garage) and he proceeded to begin the drive. However, his car would *not* start.

All the electrical systems were normal, but it just wouldn’t turn over. We couldn’t figure out what was wrong. Fortunately for him, he had a 24-hour service agreement with Acura, so he called the mechanic, who said he would be at my home in Ligonier in about an hour. So, we decided to go out for supper and then wait for the mechanic. He arrived shortly after we returned and started working on the car.

The mechanic worked for 30 minutes and could not find the problem. He was at a loss. He got his inverter, which he had charged before he left, to see if the battery was the problem (although everything in the car was lit up.) His inverter was dead. He said that was next to impossible, since he had just fully charged it before he left the garage. He told us it would take 30 minutes to charge, and (hopefully) that would solve the problem.

Chuck and I went inside the house to wait. That’s when all hell broke loose. Chuck suddenly grabbed his chest and said he had a terrible pain.

I immediately called 911, as well as my doctor friend, who had accompanied us on the hunting trip, and gave him some aspirin. We waited ten minutes for the paramedics to arrive. At this point, Chuck was in *severe* pain. They transported him to the ambulance immediately.

I asked my doctor friend to accompany Chuck to the hospital while I waited for the mechanic to finish his work. As Chuck passed the mechanic, he reached in his pocket and pulled out a \$50 tip to give him. That was typical Chuck. He was always appreciative of a good effort.

The ambulance wasn’t out of sight before the mechanic tried the ignition one more time before he hooked up the inverter. The engine turned right over and started. He told me he had never seen anything like it and really hadn’t done anything.

Had the car started when Chuck was ready to start his 2-hour drive to State College, he *never* would have made it. We later found out Chuck had a Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm ... in layman’s term, that’s a tear in his aorta.

I followed the ambulance to the hospital and stayed with Chuck until about 11:00 PM until he threw me out, saying “I wasn’t going to die that night. You should go home!”

A few minutes after I left, they received the results of the last test and realized how urgent the problem was. They immediately life-flighted him to Pittsburgh for emergency surgery.

Thanks to the great doctors—and the Lord—Chuck survived and we were able to enjoy several more years of his wisdom and friendship.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Good Lord wasn’t ready for Chuck yet. And that He knew that Carol, Chuck’s family, and his friends—especially many of his fraternity brothers—still needed him.

Rest in peace, my friend!

Honorable Phi's Reports



Gregg Horvat (Spring '98)
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Tau Phi Delta Corporation
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I'm proud to serve as your newly-elected President of the Board of Directors (BOD). I hope this message finds you well and that your fall hunting season was both successful and rewarding.

A Big Thanks to Our Brotherhood – First, I'd like to acknowledge the incredible dedication and work of the previous Board, the Grand National, our House Co-Advisors, and the Alumni who were instrumental in reopening our fraternity house after the winter 2022 flood. Their hard work enabled us to open with a restored facility, including a new boiler room, flooring, and furniture, all while receiving full reimbursement from our insurance carrier.

I'd also like to commend the Active Brothers who stuck with the fraternity during this time, especially those that are living in the House, helping us sustain near-normal operations. Their leadership and commitment have kept the House both thriving and welcoming to new members.

Achievements and Recognition – This past fall semester, the Actives undertook a thorough cleaning of the House and have maintained its condition well.

They've also initiated a new Club at Penn State, the Collegiate Sportsmen and Women's Coalition (see page 17 for more details), and our Fraternity was featured by the media company *MeatEater* (www.themeateater.com) in an upcoming podcast.

It's inspiring to see that our Fraternity and its members continue to be nationally recognized for the unique values of our Brotherhood.

In addition, a record number of Actives earned scholarships from the Tau Phi Delta Foundation, a fund supported by Alumni donations to help financially support the active Brotherhood.

Challenges Ahead: Membership and Engagement – While this year has brought many positives, we continue to face significant challenges that pose the greatest risk to the future of TΦΔ: membership and Alumni engagement.

Membership recruitment and the Active Brothers'

engagement are the lifeblood of our Fraternity and although we have 24 Actives (a respectable number) this semester, only nine are currently living in the House. This may be surprising to many Alumni, but the flood, evolving parent attitudes, University policies and fear-mongering tactics, negative media, and competition from apartment amenities have all affected our occupancy. To counter this, the BOD has introduced financial incentives, early sign-up bonuses, and lease buyouts. We have been reaching out to parents directly, but I'd also like to encourage Alumni to connect with the Actives—whether to share advice, offer career opportunities, or simply enjoy a beer and tell stories—to reinforce the value of our Brotherhood.

The Actives work hard to attract new members and currently have five pledges, but it is increasingly challenging to appeal to a (sadly) declining population of outdoor-interested students. They must continue to work harder than ever and try new tactics. Alumni word-of-mouth is also valuable.

As for Alumni engagement, we have a strong core of Alumni—you'll recognize their names from participation in leadership positions, fraternity gatherings, *The Taproot* articles, etc. ... and many of these individuals participated in a "work party" this summer to help cleanse the interior of the House, remove extraneous furniture in every room, and clean the exterior yard. I'd like to especially thank these men and women for the work that they do behind the scenes to help maintain the ongoing operations, and special events, of our Fraternity.

That said, our strength lies in our Alumni, yet we face a concerning trend of low participation. Out of an Alumni list of around 880 people, less than 10 attended the summer work party, and fewer than 20 joined the Fall Grand National meeting, despite enabling Zoom to allow for easier participation. This Spring, we didn't even have a vote for members of the BOD because we only had enough nominees to fill the open positions. More involvement, even for one term on the Board, Grand National, or Foundation, would make a significant difference.

We are now accepting nominations for this spring's Board of Directors elections. I'd especially like to encourage the generation that pledged within the last 10 to 15 years, as you're closest to the current challenges that we face, and we do not have good representation from this group.

So, please consider nominating yourself or a peer. Together, we can ensure a lasting legacy for Tau Phi Delta and another 100-plus years.

P.S. The BOD meets remotely on the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 PM EST. If interested in attending, feel free to contact me for Zoom details.

Grand National Biannual Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 10:00 AM EST, at the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity chapter room.

We will be holding a hybrid session with a virtual option offered, but we hope you will consider attending in-person. Refer to back cover for Zoom details. We encourage all to please “attend.”

BOD Elections – Nominations are accepted for four (4) open two-year positions effective now and up until the close of the BOD session’s new business during this Grand National Meeting.

To Nominate – Contact Rich Kappel (BOD Sigma) at kappelra@comcast.net or (724) 433-0233, or address the BOD via Zoom on April 26th.

If willing to serve, provide a brief, four-sentence bio (i.e., name, pledge class, hometown/state, current occupation, and what is interest in serving). All bios will appear with online ballots and website.

Nominees (To Date) – Currently we have four nominees, and they are (In alphabetical order):

Kevin Dean (Fall '08 / B.S. Energy Business and Finance '10 / M.S. Renewable Energy and Sustainability Systems '22), Boalsburg, is an Energy Management Consultant for the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute and owner of Angler Energy Consulting, LLC. His professional experience has focused on the efficient operation of large facilities and includes extensive stakeholder collaboration and team building. “I’m interested in using these skills to assist the Corporation BOD in achieving its goals as well as leveraging my proximity to the House as an asset to the TΦΔ Brotherhood. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.”

Gregg Horvat* (Spring '98 / B.S. Architectural Engineering 2002 / M.B.A. – Duke University 2007), Charlotte, North Carolina, is current owner and chief operating officer of JCG Transportation, Inc. (a long-haul FedEx trucking contractor based out of the Memphis, Tenn. area) and previous CEO of Allconnect. “I have served as House Phi as an Active Brother, amongst other positions, and am the current Phi of the TΦΔ Corporation Board of Directors. I’m a self-appointed, full-time driver

with the Tau Phi Delta Team A+ Bear Camp in the Allegheny National Forest.”

Don Klinger* (Spring '89 / B.S. Forest Science 1992) lives in Reynoldsville with his wife and two children and works as a long-practicing forest consultant and founder/owner Advantage Forestry. Served as Phi and Sigma while an Active in the House. “I have served on the BOD prior in the '90s and again the past two years.” He’s involved with conservation advocacy efforts as the President-elect – Pennsylvania Trappers Association, vice-president – Old Town Beagle Club, and board member – Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists.

Alex K. Yoder* (Fall '08 / B.A. Accounting - Smeal College of Business 2010 / J.D. Law - Ohio Northern University 2013), originally from Belleville and currently living in Harrisburg with wife and two children. He’s a litigation counsel for West Shore Home located in Mechanicsburg. “I served as TΦΔ Social Chair while at the House. I would very much like to continue to provide my services to the BOD.”

*Indicates Incumbent

To Vote – Should we *have* more than four (4) nominees, voting online starts on May 1st and will run until 12:00 PM EST on the 10th.

To vote, go online at: www.tauphidelta.org (Search “Alumni” open “Alumni Leadership” and look for “BOD Ballot”).

Note: This ballot will not be activated until May 1st.



Dave O'Barto (Fall '90)
Phi –
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Tau Phi Delta has experienced and continues to experience challenging and ever-changing times. Whether it be daunting University regulations, pesky Borough code enforcement, recruiting demands, or meeting financial obligations there is always some challenge to face. The essential key is for the Active Brotherhood to continue to recruit quality men who can continue the traditions *and* live in the House.

Each semester the Brotherhood in conjunction with guidance from the TΦΔ Corporation Board of Directors, continues to find ways to recruit, meet the financial obligations and manage the infrastructure needs of our aging fraternity house.

The Grand National Chapter would like to thank those Alumni Brothers who volunteered their time, lent their expertise and serve as leaders in Tau Phi Delta tackling these challenges. Your time and efforts do not go unnoticed gentlemen!

However, Tau Phi Delta needs more help with Brothers stepping up to serve as directors, fund-raisers, or construction advisors to champion the Tau Phi Delta way. The solution is in numbers, the more the merrier, so please consider volunteering your expertise and time. It is very much needed!

The Grand National will continue to host the biannual Spring and Fall meetings. Both are hybrid sessions, so one can either participate in person, via telephone, or video conference (See the back cover for Zoom details). 'Hope to *see* you then!

Foundation's Report



Kory Enck (Fall '86)
Chairman –
Tau Phi Delta Foundation

kenck415@gmail.com
(717) 449-6869

(Note: New email address/cell number)

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Tau Phi Delta Foundation provides a tax-deductible way to support the education of current and future TΦΔ members.

The funds we raise for the Foundation are used for the future of Tau Phi Delta, as we represent our fraternity's non-profit educational entity. As you may know, it was created by our Alumni as a means to support the educational opportunities provided to the local chapter of Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

One of our educational programs is the ***Tau Phi Delta Foundation Scholarship***. Previously we have provided as many as three scholarships as more active students are applying each year. However, 2024 marks the first time in our history where we received more than just three applications. We were able to award eight scholarships for \$2,500 each as well as 14 scholarships for \$1,000 for a total of \$34,000!

Hopefully these scholarships will better the lives and education of a lot of great Penn Staters. Another

Another round of scholarships is coming up and will be announced later this spring.

A large part of our scholarship fund comes from

our annual ***Jim Evans Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament***. This year's event—from now to be held annually on the third Saturday in June—is scheduled for Saturday, June 21st (See page 18).

And last year we increased our event revenues as we began to accept and collected \$100 sponsorships for the 18 holes (See the below), along with many other generous contributions and prize donations.

Soon we should see yet another source of funding from a first-time ever fundraiser featuring a sporting clays shoot designed to memorialize our recently lost Br. Charles Strauss, who was an avid upland gamebird hunter. So, get ready for our ***Dr. Chuck Strauss Memorial Sporting Clays Shoot***. This first-time event will take place at the Whitetail Preserve Shooting Range near Bloomsburg (Rock Glen). on Sunday, March 23rd (Also see page 18). So, dust off those shotguns and let's make Dr. Chuck proud!

As mentioned in our last issue of *The Taproot*, we are always looking for help during our fund-raising events. The new sporting clays tournament needs a few Brothers who will be instrumental in carrying out the plans and event operations.

Another idea that has been kicked around is a bass fishing tournament. Anyone interested in heading this up? A location in the state such as Susquehanna or Allegheny Rivers? Maybe a tributary of either?

In closing if you are interested in contributing to the Foundation, donations are tax deductible. Credit card payments, investment accounts, appreciated property, planned giving or donated vehicles can be accepted in consultation with the Foundation's investment manager and the donor representative.

We are ... and continue to be ... strong as an oak!

A big thanks to these Tau Phis as the 2024 Jim Evans Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament Hole Sponsors!

Mark Brunermer • Honor of Spring '81 Pledge Class (Craig Talley) • Karl & Karen Imdorf • Honor of Twin Valley Hunt Club (Steve Warner) • Gregg Horvat • Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC (Rich Kappel) • Appalachian Logging & Forestry (Tim Holtz) • Memory of Jeff Patten (Earl Hower) • Whitetail Preserve Shooting Range (Joseph Gans) • TΦΔ Grand National • Forrester Environmental, Inc. (Mitch Vowler) • Gerber Foresrty (Dan Gerber) • David J. O'Barto Consulting Forester, LLC (Dave O'Barto)

Alumni Updates



JARED ADAM (Fall '17) is a graduate research assistant and working on his PhD – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Montana State University, in Bozeman.
jsadam0809@gmail.com

RICHARD “DICK” AUSERMAN (Fall '65), of Orrtanna, is still enjoying good health and using unwanted trees to produce firewood. He's also enjoying hiking in the Michaux State Forest. “My rock and mineral hobby has filled the house, garage, and yard. It is a good life!”



TROY J. BARTLEY (Spring '92), 51, of Denville, New Jersey, went to be with his Lord, on December 3, 2024. Born and raised in Beaver County, he earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering ('96) and later employed at the Titanium Fabrication Corp.

While at PSU, Troy developed a love for rugby earning two-time All-American accolades while competing in three straight final fours. After college, he continued his rugby career in the Super League in California and in the Washington, DC area, and later with the New York Athletic Club winning four Club League National Championships. He eventually earned a spot on the United States Rugby Team.

Troy is survived by his mother, and several siblings, including his older brother, Br. **WADE BARTLEY** (Spring '88) and his sister-in-law, L.S. **CARIE (ATTERBURY) BARTLEY** (Spring '87).

JOE “BART” BARTNICKI (Fall '60), of Old Forge, had a very productive fall 2023 hunting season, earning him a Triple Trophy recognition. He was able to take a spring gobbler and black bear with the muzzleloader, and an 8-point whitetail buck with the bow in Pennsylvania.



He also got this huge red stag in Maine that had a Boone and Crockett measurement of 407-1/8.



A recent *Penn Stater* reported that **LARRY BEANS** (Fall '58) of Mentor, Ohio passed away on December 21, 2023.

He came to Penn State on the G. I. Bill after serving in the U. S. Air Force as a Chinese linguist trained at Yale University.

His 30-year career included various sales, product development and marketing positions with Caterpillar, Inc.

Saddened upon hearing the news of the death of his Little Brother, **CHUCK STRAUSS, TOM BRESLIN** (Fall '53), of Warsaw, New York, reported that he was continuing in good health—Tom's main activity is visiting his wife, Lucy, at the East Side Nursing Home.

Tomb3557@gmail.com

On August 11, 2024, a “Spirit Booster” Picnic was held in a Mechanicsburg community park, for **JOHN BEARER** (Fall '70) [L Front Row] who was recovering from many months of rehab due to health issues. Along with their spouses, there were more than two dozen Brothers and Little Sisters spanning three decades of $\tau\phi\Delta$ in attendance. John continues to recover knowing he has the support of many lifelong Tau Phi Delta friends. This surprise event was coordinated by **JACK GINGERICH** and **MIKE MICHALEC**.



ED BROWNING (Fall '55), of Ogden, Utah, reports "It is with considerable sadness that I notify you of the passing of my brother-in-law, **CARL W. WOLFE, JR.** (Fall '55), of Grand Island,



Nebraska passed away on November 9, 2024.

We've been good friends since

meeting at Mont Alto 70 years ago. During the summer of 1955, Carl took me to his home in Erie to meet his family. I was immediately attracted to his sister Mary Alice, whom I married in 1959. We were married for 59 years until her death in 2018."

"Over the years, we spent many days hunting pheasants in Nebraska, chukars in Wyoming and elk in Colorado. Carl was a very accomplished outdoorsman and a wonderful Brother."

"While living at the House in the 50's, Carl served as Phi (in 1958) was the roommate of **CHUCK STRAUSS**. Notably, they both passed away a few weeks apart."

Carl earned both a B.S. in Forest Management in 1958 and a M.S. in Wildlife Management in 1960.

While attending Penn State, he married his college sweetheart, Nancy Eismann and in 1960 they moved to Nebraska.

During his 41-year career with the Nebraska Game and Parks, he served as a biologist doing research on pheasants and grouse. Later he served as coordinator of their outdoor education program.

Carl was a consummate outdoorsman. From his early days exploring small woodlots near Lake Erie, to his college years

where he thoroughly enjoyed hunting grouse in Stone Valley to his many years doing research on a variety of wildlife in Nebraska, he was always afield. His passion was conducting the many outdoor cooking and environmental workshops in Nebraska where he encouraged the responsible stewardship of wildlands.

ebrowmbrow@aol.com

LEE EBELING (Fall '62) is a professional structural engineer and lives in Great Falls, Montana. He recently retired and is an avid fisherman and hunter—which is easy to do both in that state. He has been married to Christine for 60 years. Christine was with Lee during his happy years at TΦΔ.

leeebeling@gmail.com



Bros. Flicker & Schul

MARC FLICKER (Spring '83), of Colorado Springs, and **LANCE SCHUL** (Fall '91), of Littleton, recently joined the "Colorado Mile High Club" when hunting elk in the high elevations of Bureau of Land Management public lands near Gunnison, Colorado.



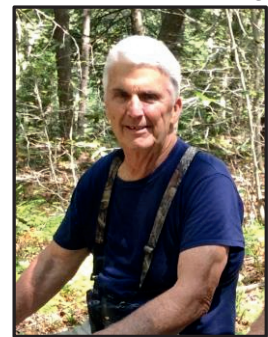
Recently, **JOSEPH GANS, V** (Fall '07) shot a perfect 100 straight targets in the 12 Gauge Event at the 2024 World Skeet Championship held in San Antonio, Texas. An avid shotgunner and shooting coach and instructor, Joey's family owns Whitetail Preserve Shooting Range that will be the future site of the "Dr. Chuck Strauss

Memorial Sporting Clays Shoot" as the newest Tau Phi Delta Foundation's fundraiser.

joseph.gans@gmail.com

STEVEN D. GEHRINGER (Fall '66) of Bellefonte, passed away on March 31, 2024, after a five-year battle with lymphoma.

Originally from Reading, Steve graduated from PSU with a B.S. in Business Logistics and stayed for his MBA. Wanting to change his career path, he returned later for his M.S. in Wildlife Management.



Steve worked for 20 years for the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) as the Game Warden for eastern Tioga County and later spent 10 years as the Land Manager Supervisor for Potter and Tioga Counties. He loved creating habitats for wildlife.

Steve's younger brother, **SCOTT GEHRINGER**, of Calgary, Alberta Canada, is also a Tau Phi.

Steve enjoyed hiking and identifying anything he saw. And he always had a beagle and enjoyed rabbit hunting from his camp in Union County.

Steve maintained very close relationships with many Tau Phis. He loved the annual hunting and camping trips with them in the Black Hills in Wyo.

Of the nearly three dozen Tau Phis who attended his memorial services, they all concurred that "Steve's death leaves a great hole in our Brotherhood."

Also, with the PGC, **DAVE "SWEDE" GUSTAFSON** (Fall '96), of Loysville, is the former Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management Director and was recently promoted to Deputy Executive Director of this wildlife agency.

He worked for the PGC since 2003, most recently had oversight and directed wildlife habitat management practices on the 1.5 million acres of state game lands, as well as gas, oil, coal and timber operations on game lands.

After graduating from Penn State in 1976, **MARK HAHN** (Fall '75), of Columbia, S.C., then received his M.S. from the University of Illinois in 1980. He just retired last year from a career in heavy manufacturing. He spent the last 17 years managing global sourcing activities for large castings/forgings required in mineral processing equipment. He is now enjoying grandkids, boating, and volunteering as senior staff/instructor for Hawk Mountain Ranger School – Civil Air Patrol.

markhahn2011@gmail.com



CLIFTON HATCH (Winter '82) took a 225-yard shot to harvest this free roaming bison in early January, near Jackson Hole, Wyo., using a .28 Nosler rifle that he got from **ADAM HEGGENSTALLER** a few years back.

cliftonhatch@sprynet.com

BILL HERB (Fall '65) and wife, Marian, are still doing well in Chestertown, Md. They spent three weeks in the Florida Keys in late February/early March. They connected with **EARL HOWER** and wife, Shelley, as they were passing through (on their very belated honeymoon) to meet with some other Tau Phi's further south in the Keys. Those other Tau Phis staying in Marathon were **EDWARD "EMHO" CROW**, **ROY "SCREAMER" SIEFERT**, **STEVE "BENNY" WARNER**, and his brother-in-law, **WAYNE SCHUTZ** (son of **ALBERT SCHUTZ**).

Bill and Marian visited the Flamingo Area of Everglades National Park to observe some American crocodiles and got to see a big bull croc who attacked a capsized boater a couple of weeks later. These crocs are supposedly not very aggressive.

Bill was unsuccessful in both the senior antlerless season and the regular buck season in 2023 and tried again in the 2024 season ... but to no avail.

m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com

As seen in a previous issue of the *Pennsylvania Game News*, the PGC southwest Regional Forester, **ANDY HETRICK** (Winter '78), of Johnstown, retired in December 2022 after nearly 40 years. As did Lawrence County Game Warden, **JEFF KENDALL** (Spring '85), of New Castle, who worked for the wildlife agency since 1991.



Also, with the PGC, **NICK HOGG** (Spring '21) recently graduated with a B.S. wildlife and a minor in forestry, is currently a Forest Technician in northwest region and resides in Franklin.

"It's been great so far and learning a ton! Think I've learned more in a month than all of college!"

nickhogg8@gmail.com

After 26 combined years of service in the U.S. Army and the Penna. Air National Guard, Chief Master Sergeant **KEVIN KARMOSKY** (Fall '90) recently retired. His nearly three-decade tour of duty took him abroad to both Iraq and Afghanistan.



[R] CMSGT Karmosky, Ret.

Two of his Pledge Brothers, **JASON ALBRIGHT** and **JOE HLIVIA** surprised him by attending Kevin's retirement ceremony held in Harrisburg.

Kevin and his wife, Michele, moved from Aurora, Colo. to Tucson, Ariz. for the winter months and they travel across America in their RV during the rest of the year.

coalpole@hotmail.com



This photo was spotted in a recent issue of *Pennsylvania Outdoor News*. **JOHN KOLODEZIEJSKI** (Winter '83) arrowed this 11-point whitetail buck while hunting in

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Shenango River Lake Recreation Area—his former place of employment in Mercer County—on November 2.

John claims he used an “old school” technique—hunting on the ground in a deadfall tree—with the help of “new school” weaponry—a modern crossbow.

According to **DAVE MESSICS** (Fall '84), five Tau Phis ventured across the northern border to Pulaski, New York in search of the elusive king salmon and steelhead.



Shown above [L to R] Bros. **CHAD HARTZELL** (Fall '89), **KORY ENCK** (Fall '86), **DAVE EPPINGER** (Spring '88), **DAN DiCAMILLO** (Fall '85), and **DAVE MESSICS** were successful and returned with a ‘fish story’ worth sharing.

Read all about it in “Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors” on page 15.



Shown here [Above center] is the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) forester, **RAY NELLING** (Fall '90),

who supervised the harvest, transport, and delivery of a towering Norway Spruce from the Monongahela National Forest as the 2023 U.S. Capital Christmas tree.



Br. Nelling In D.C. And His 'Unofficial' USFS Uniform

Ray and his wife of 30 years, Janelle, reside in Elkins, West Virginia and have a daughter, Rayelle, and a son, Seth.

ruun1719@gmail.com

DR. ROBERT S. OTTO (Fall '65) passed away at his home on December 25, 2022. He was born in Trenton, New Jersey, but grew up in Newtown, and ended up in Kodiak, Alaska.



After graduating from Penn State with B.S. Forestry in 1968, Robert entered grad school at the University of Maine, where he earned his M.S. and PhD. and was employed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

Robert was the son of one of our fraternity's founding KΦΔ Brothers, **J. GEORGE OTTO** (Spring '22).



On July 19, 2024, **JEFF “KID” PATTEN** (Spring '82) succumbed to his on-the-job injuries that occurred while marking timber.



As a procurement forester, Jeff worked 25 years for Clear Lake Lumber and later with Springfield Hardwood Products. He was an avid outdoorsman and a huge hunting and fishing enthusiast.

Jeff was a supportive father of three sons who was passionate about raising Colin, Luke and Nathan. He and his wife, Christina, lived in Hermitage.

Over two dozen Brothers and Little Sisters from five states attended the Kid's memorial, where one Brother eulogized, “The world is a lesser place with this loss. But was much better because of him.”

On June 8, 2024, **GREGORY “BOO BOO” PEIFFER** (Spring '81) and wife, L.S. **MARY (HERBST) PEIFFER** (Winter '80), gave their daughter's (L.S. **JULIE PEIFFER** – Fall '15) hand in marriage to **GAVIN COLLINS** (Fall '14). The newlyweds reside in Harrisburg and Gavin works for the UFP Packaging Company, while Julie is employed by the Nemaquin Woodlands Resort.

CHARLES F. “VIRGE” THUMA (Fall '75) retired after 40 years of government service (20 years U.S. Navy as Commander and 20 years as a civil servant for the U.S. Navy). He now volunteers at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Virginia.

Charles5652@cox.net



JOHN D. VATCHER (Fall '77), of Shoreline, Washington passed away peacefully on May 30, 2023 after a courageous struggle with a rare type of cancer, Leiomyosarcoma.

John was born in Providence, Rhode Island and grew up in Wellsboro, but the Pacific Northwest called to him at an early age. He moved west immediately after graduating from Penn State in 1980 with a dual B.S. in Wood Science/Industrial Engineering.

While at TΦΔ, John, a naturally born leader, was elected the House Phi only a few weeks after the end of his Pledging – as were the three other executive officers from his large pledge class of 14 new Brothers.

John had a successful 30-year career in the forest products industry and became a recognized expert in the design and manufacturing of wood and vinyl windows. After working in engineering roles for several window companies, in 2016 he became the part-owner of Weathervane Windows in Seattle.

John's true passions came through in his love for the outdoors, especially skiing.

According to his obituary he “was always and especially game for a spontaneous ski trip, and he never let sound judgement stand in the way of having a good adventure. Somehow, he always managed to find a way to get the car out of the snowbank, find beer in a dry town, and obtain lodging with an outdoor hot tub.”

Please send us your Alumni Update for the next issue of

The **Taproot**

Refer to the form on page 19

The Spring '77 Pledge Class (*aka* The Straight Six) held a reunion in Keating Summit, Potter County, Pennsylvania at Twin Valley Hunt Club cabin (built and owned by 11 Tau Phis). It was here where Bros. **JIM “CATFISH” BINDER**, **HOWARD “DOKEY” WURZBACHER**, **SCOTT “WHIP” WILSON**, **ASHLEY “HENRY” SWEDA**, **JOEL “JOEY” BOOGER**, and **CARL “HOSMER” VICTORIUS** reenacted their April 1977 pledge bolt photo—without our beloved House mascot, Smokey—at McCord's cabin near Black Moshannon State Park, in northern Centre County. You will note the stack of freshly cut pledge logs that these young fellows worked on during their class outing.



[L to R - Rear] Bros. Binder, Wurzbacher, Wilson, [- Front] Sweda, Boogher, Victorius

This continuing feature of The Taproot — is 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 edition.

Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

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

“Just Another Big Fish Story”

By Dave Messics (Fall '84)

Illustrations by Steve Torok (Spring '86)

If I was a betting man, I doubt I would have wagered that when five young men walked through the doors of a fraternity at Penn State in the mid- to late-'80s that they would remain friends to this day and share many memories of hunting and fishing adventures. Yet, nearly 40 years later, these same five Brothers of Tau Phi Delta found themselves on the Salmon River near Pulaski, New York on Columbus Day 2024, chasing salmon and steelhead.

Brothers Chad Hartzell, Kory Enck, Dan DiCamillo, Dave Eppinger, and Dave Messics made the nearly six-hour trip north hoping to catch the tail end of the salmon migration. And, if they were lucky, maybe hook up a steelhead or trophy brown trout.

Bros. DiCamillo and Messics have fished the Salmon River together over the past few years, but this was a first-time trip to this particular river for the rest. Although new to the Salmon River, Br. Eppinger brought his experience fishing Oak Orchard Creek, Br. Hartzell brought his experience and knowledge as a guide for Orvis, and Br. Enck, his confidence hooking up many small-mouth bass on a fly on the Susquehanna River and Penns Creek.

After stopping at Fat Nancy's Tackle Shop to take a photo of the 87-pound salmon reproduction hanging on the wall, and stock up a few extra flies and leader, the guys headed to the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in nearby Altmar. The hatchery is an amazing facility, and the educational component is top-notch.

Beaverdam Brook runs along the parking lot, and there are literally hundreds of king and coho salmon struggling to swim up this tiny stream, only to be stopped by iron bars blocking their progress. Many find their way into one of the side-runs leading into the hatchery where the eggs are collected, fertilized, and reared. Each year the hatchery stocks over 1.4 million Chinook salmon fingerlings, 250,000 coho salmon, and 750,000 steelhead.

Next stop, the Upper Fly-Fishing Zone just up the road. The first afternoon proved to be challenging with lots of anglers on the public water and few fresh fish. Nonetheless, it gave us all a chance to knock the rust off and get comfortable with the chuck-n-duck technique often employed.

If you've never had a 25-pound salmon jump clean out of the water in front of you, it's like having a beaver sneak up behind you and slam his tail. It never gets old and gets your blood pumping!



We rented an Airbnb just up the road in Mannsville that we called home for the next three days. It proved to be very comfortable and we took turns preparing meals that included: ribeye steaks on the grill, pulled pork and brisket, home-made apple pie, and Alaskan halibut caught by Br. Eppinger. A few craft IPAs and smoked bourbon cocktails complimented our fine cuisine. And like all TΦΔ reunions, we played hearts every night until the wee hours of the morning. And since we made the executive decision to sleep in each morning, we got a few hands in each morning before heading out for the day! Truth be told, we likely spent more time playing cards than fishing!

Day two and three found us on the Douglaston Salmon Run taking advantage of their afternoon passes and relatively few fisherman—a far cry from the shoulder-to-shoulder crowds on the public water we experienced the first day. Unfortunately, there just weren't many fresh fish in the river, but we all did manage to have a few hook ups and land a few fish. At one point, Br. Enck was relatively close, but the next time I looked down the river he was a few hundred yards below trying to keep up with a big king heading for Lake Ontario!

From all reports, it seemed that the late August rain got the run started early. Then no rain for over a month, and warmer than normal temperatures, resulted in the main run never materializing. But that's how it goes, some years it's relatively easy. Others like this one, you have to work hard for even a few hook-ups.

However, at the end of the day, as Brothers we have the memories to reflect on and look forward to our next get together in May. But this time on one of Central Pennsylvania's wild trout streams.



This continuing feature of The Taproot is where Brothers of years gone by can share what life was really like at the old fraternity house at 238 East Fairmount Avenue.



Old House Heritage

“Setback”

By Bill Herb (Fall '65)

A setback is not always a bad thing. If I ever am on *Jeopardy* and the ghost of Alex Trebek gives me the clue: “This card game is customarily played while reclining on the floor and is also known as “idiot’s bridge” or “pitch”, my question obviously will be “What is Setback?” and IBM’s supercomputer Watson probably will not beat me to it.



For the uninitiated, Setback was a card game that was introduced to me as a pledge at Tau Phi Delta in 1965. It is a simple game, and generally can be completed in a few hands of cards over a five-minute period. The Tau Phi Delta version of Setback has some rules that are slightly different from those of standard Pitch which made it a bit more interesting. I won’t go into the details of the game, but its speed, simplicity, and social interaction made it an ideal time-killer in the interim between returning from class at the end of the day and dinner.

As a pledge, I also learned of Setback’s ability to deflect “Friday afternoon harassment.” Friday before dinner was prime time for a lightning round of Pledge Trivia or other forms of “pledge education”, especially if the Brothers had gotten an early start on the weekend at the *Phyrst* while on their way back from classes.

However, if after returning from class, a clever pledge (or even a cleverness-deficient pledge such as I) could find a deck of cards (always an easy task), flop down on the Chapter Room floor, and innocently shout “Setback!”, there was usually a good chance that one or more Brothers (this was the key) would grab the opportunity for some relaxation.

Since Setback was almost sacred, I do not recall any card-playing Brother attempting any “pledge guidance” while the game was in progress (he may have had Pledge partner), and no non-participating Brother was willing to break into such a solemn ritual.

After I did my duty with Uncle Sam, I returned to PSU for graduate school in Fall 1970. It was very convenient to rent a room at 427 East Fairmount Avenue, and to avoid cooking my own meals. It also gave me a chance to observe a new generation of Brothers continuing the Setback tradition.

Dirty Ed followed the same grad school plan

(introduced, along with his jeep, in Issue 17 / 2020 of *The Taproot*), and was often my partner in many of the “four-handed” games that were played during this time. A rivalry with other teams developed, and a lot of trash was talked about which team was the best.

The only way to settle this once and for all was by “The Great Setback Round-Robin Tournament”. A league of two-man or two-women teams (this was the era of Little Sisters, after all), was assembled, and a schedule, whose complexity mirrored the March Madness brackets, was developed that gave each team a chance to play a series of games with every other team in the tournament. The winner would be the team that had the most wins after all games were played. There may have been an entry fee involved, just to make it interesting, but that would have been gambling, and wrong.

Dirty Ed was a challenging partner and was notorious for his wild bidding style, but he and I always enjoyed partnering with one another. So, we entered the tournament as a team. Now comes the part where I finally will admit to some less-than-honorable activity. Even though Setback was a very simple game, and much of one’s success was determined by luck-of-the-draw, there were some opportunities to shade the odds. In other words, to cheat. Several unobtrusive hand signals were used to indicate in which suit Dirty Ed or I had strength, which allowed some more flexibility in bidding. Of course, “strength” is a relative term, and left room for errors, especially with a partner who was ever the optimist.

Additionally, the Jack of trump was a critical card, which may or may not be available for play during a given hand. Knowing that particular card was in play, allowed maximum bids to be made. Therefore, a separate signal, which is lost to the mists of time and dimming memory, was used.

I wish I could report definitively that either “cheaters never prosper” or that “creativity carried the day”, but as I recall there may have been no definitive winner. The complexity of the brackets, combined with the length of the academic quarter, and the varying schedules of the participants, may have resulted in not all the games being played. Perhaps entry fees were refunded. If any veterans of that tournament have a better recollection, I will gladly clarify in an upcoming issue of *The Taproot*.

You will note that I delayed this confession until after our 2022 100th celebration event, to make sure that I was not in the same room with a group of the “victims”. You have my much-belated apologies.



Parting Shots



Collegiate Sportsmen And Women's Coalition

Facilitated and supported by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (a bipartisan organization in Washington, DC comprising of U.S. Senators and Congressmen and

women), the Collegiate Sportsmen and Women's Coalition (CSWC) is a network of individual student led organizations that are complementary to existing outdoor conservation organizations by offering a new approach focused on policy education and engagement and to give the members hands on experience that they can carry forward into their future careers.

Students from diverse backgrounds and interests will have the ability to come together and learn about the important role that hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping play in fish and wildlife conservation while also gaining first-hand experience in pro-conservation advocacy efforts.

Other CSWS coalitions include (up to this point were all southern colleges): Mississippi State, University of Mississippi, Clemson, Louisiana State, and University of South Carolina.

The Penn State University CSWC is the sixth college chapter to be formed in the U. S. and it was only natural for Tau Phi Delta hunting and fishing enthusiasts to play a big role in its formation on the PSU Main Campus. You can learn more online at: <https://congressionalsportsmen.org/cswc>

Centennial Video



Another reminder that the fraternity's history video, that was presented during the Centennial banquet in 2022, can be found online at www.tauphidelta.org, open ALUMNI webpage, then navigate to the bottom "2022 Centennial Celebration" and click on "100 Years

of Brotherhood" to view this 22-minute historical video. Yes, it's worth your time to go check it out!

Social Media Success

The House recently successfully shifted its social media presence, in addition to Facebook, and are now on Instagram.



Follow us on: www.instagram.com/tauphideltapsu/



Putting Our Fraternity's Lifeguard Bench To Good Use

In the last issue of *The Taproot*, we noted a recent article in the *Penn Stater*, that reported how "nearly every fraternity house in town seems to have one on its lawn, each hand-painted with chapter letters and colors." Then we reported how TΦΔ Brothers built their own oversized green and white lifeguard bench.

While other fraternities use their benches on the front yards to loudly advertise their social events and to "party" with their dates—the young Tau Phis often use theirs to celebrate the successful hunt and proudly display their harvest at the Treehouse!

"We Are...Treehouse!" Tailgate

Save this date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 for a planned gathering of Tau Phis of all ages at Beaver Stadium before and after the Villanova football game (Kickoff time to be determined). We'll most likely be located in Parking Lot 12 off of East Park Avenue



← Look for this historic flag (as Penn State prohibits the display of fraternity Greek letters at tailgates) and a **green** strobe light on the pole.

If interested in attending and/or you can help, please contact L.S. Alumna, Christine Eberhart, at (484) 769-3311 or ebs0704@yahoo.com. More details found in the future online www.tauphidelta.org.

Another Centennial

On March 4, 1924, the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity was officially formed when a delegate from the Pennsylvania State College's Kappa Phi Delta and one from the Washington University's Tau Phi met halfway at a train station in Ames, Iowa.

They formed a national forestry fraternity merging the Greek letters KΦΔ with TΦ to become TΦΔ, which stands for *Tamascus Philon Dendron* ... "Noble Friends of the Trees."



**Here's Two Great Events Sponsored by Tau Phi Delta Foundation
Proceeds To Benefit Tau Phi Delta Foundation Scholarship Fund
And Here Are This Year's Events Particulars ...**



**WHITETAIL PRESERVE
SHOOTING RANGE
First Annual
Dr. Chuck Strauss
Memorial Sporting
Clays Shoot**

Shoot – Four-person sporting clays squads
(100 shots per)

Date and Time – Sunday, March 23, 2025
Registration opens at 10:00AM

Location – Whitetail Preserve
Shooting Range
118 Boulevard Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

(GPS: Rock Glen, PA • www.whitetailpreserve.com)

Fees Per Shooter – \$65: For alumni/guests
\$50: For actives/students

Includes lunch afterwards with raffles, 50/50
drawing, and silent auction (Bring extra \$)

Note – Bring your own shotgun and plenty of
target load ammo (100-plus rounds).

RSVP – Gavin Collins by March 8th
(571) 308-4027 / gcollins573@gmail.com



**Annual Jim Evans
Memorial Scholarship
Golf Tournament**

Tournament – Four-person scramble
(Best ball)

Date and Time – Saturday, June 21, 2025
With a 9:00AM shotgun start
(Arrive a half hour or more prior)

Location – Skytop Mountain Golf Club
350 Freestone Lane
Port Matilda, PA 16870

(Near State College • www.skytopgolf.com)

Fees Per Golfer – \$90: For alumni/guests
\$65: For actives/students

Includes lunch (BYOB) afterwards
along with raffles and 50/50
(So bring extra \$)

RSVP – Jim Cowan by June 1st
(814) 571-1813 / jamesmcowan66@gmail.com

Note – This tournament to be held from now on,
annually on the third Saturday of June.

Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunity available at both events: \$100 Per Shooting Station / Golf Hole
To sponsor, contact: Ben Hoffman at (717) 406-8511 / flyfishben@comcast.net. Please send your check
(payable to Tau Phi Delta Foundation) to Ben to – 710 Radio Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-8992

Registration details and rules for both events online at: www.tauphidelta.org (Search “Happenings”)



TΦΔ ALUMNI UPDATE & TAPROOT SUPPORT FORM

Please take a few minutes and tell us about yourself and your family so you can be included in the "Alumni Updates" section of the next issue of *The Taproot*.

Name and Nickname _____

Pledge Class (i.e., Fall 1922) _____ Graduation Year(s) _____

Phone Number(s) (To be printed) _____
(Specify home/work/cell)

Email Address (To be printed) _____

Quotable comments and other information about you, your family, your career and interests outside of work (If need be, continue on a separate sheet).

Enclosed is my contribution to support the continued printing of *The Taproot* alumni newsletter:

__ \$10 __ \$20 __ \$30 __ \$50 __ \$100 or \$_____ (Specify amount).

Please make your check payable to: Tau Phi Delta Foundation (Add to memo: The Taproot)

Then send this form and the check to: Bill Herb
9780 White Swan Court
Chestertown, MD 21620-4001

You may also send an alumni update and suggestions for future newsletter articles by email to the editor, Bill Herb, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com



**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
Tau Phi Delta Foundation
427 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711**

Address Service Requested



Future TΦΔ Scheduled Events for 2025

PLAN AHEAD:

➤ **Grand National Biannual Spring Meeting • Saturday, April 26 / 10:00AM EST**

- Penn State Alpha Chapter Active Brothers
- Corporation Board of Directors
- Tau Phi Delta Foundation Trustees

Location: Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

- All Brothers are invited to attend and encouraged to participate.
- Virtual remote access available via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82545428959?pwd=WJoVG585MZmUPLdatuOSDEox1coZn8.1>

Meeting ID: 825 4542 8959 Passcode: 889577

- Or dial-in at: (646) 931-3860 or (301) 715-8592
- Agenda to be posted in the near future online at: www.tauphidelta.org (Search “Alumni”)

Note: Same day as Blue-White Scrimmage Football Game (Kick-off time to be determined)

➤ **Online Voting for Corporation Board of Directors • May 1 to 10**

See page 8 for details

➤ **First Annual Dr. Chuck Strauss Memorial Sporting Clays Shoot • Sunday, March 23**

➤ **Annual W. James “Jim” Evans Memorial Golf Tournament • Saturday, June 21**

➤ **We Are ... Treehouse Tailgate (PSU vs. Villanova) • Saturday, September 13**

More details and rules for all events are found online at: www.tauphidelta.org (Search “Happenings”)