

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Forest Resources

2014 alumni newsletter



Andrews
Forestry and Wildlife
LABORATORY



DEAN'S comments

This has been a great year for the CFR. Last month, we graduated our largest class since I have been Dean. It was exciting to see so many of our students take the next step. The crowd of family and friends was so large that we held the reception in the Johnson Courtyard. A special thanks to the faculty who have worked to prepare these students for the future.

The large graduating class reflects our growing enrollment. Undergraduate enrollment has increased 77 percent from Fall 2007 to Fall 2013. This is truly exciting and we anticipate a large class this fall.

To further expand our enrollment and address a need for natural resource leaders, the Department of Forestry has recently developed a new major, Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation. The major offers three concentrations: Resource Conservation Science, Natural Resource Law and Administration, and Natural Resource Technology. In this major, students will explore ecology and biology; measurement and evaluation of natural resource environmental components, properties and functioning; management of ecosystems; and legal, regulatory, policy; and economic aspects of ecosystem administration of natural resource management and environmental conservation.

Our growth in no small measure is a credit to the generous support we have received from our alumni and friends. Thanks to your support, the College awarded \$150,000 in scholarships last year. We appreciate the gifts made by so many. We also appreciate those who employ our students through internships, cooperative education, and summer employment. Professional experience is so important to our students as they build their resume and prepare to begin their careers in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, forest products, and natural resource management.

Another development this year has been the name change for the Department of Forest Products. The department is now the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts, which more closely reflects its broadened focus on sustainability, conservation, renewable resources, and environmental stewardship. The department faculty are developing a new undergraduate degree in sustainable bioproducts.

More information on the name change and exciting news about the college, faculty, staff, students, and alumni are contained in this newsletter. We also share news via our social media platforms. The College of Forest Resources is on facebook at facebook.com/MSUCollegeofForestResources and on twitter at @MSU_CFR. We also have a channel on YouTube at youtube.com/user/cfrvids. Please tune-in.

We have exciting events planned for this fall. The biennial Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show is scheduled for September 19-20. The equipment show is the largest, live, in-woods demonstration of forestry equipment in the nation. We will be offering continuing education classes for foresters, loggers, and landowners. To pre-register for the show, please visit www.midsouthforestry.org. We will also host the 5th alumni homecoming tailgate reunion on November 8 when the bulldogs will take on University of Tennessee-Martin. Details on the homecoming tailgate will be sent later this fall.

Thanks again for your support. We look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall, or perhaps at a meeting. Stay in touch. It is an honor to serve as your Dean.

Sincerely,

George M. Hopper
Dean

2012

Alumni Fellow

David Wesley



Dr. David E. Wesley Sr., a 1962 and 1968 alumnus, is the 2012 fellow for the College of Forest Resources. Wesley holds two degrees from MSU, a bachelor's degree in history and political science and a master's degree in wildlife and fisheries with an emphasis in zoology.

Alumnus of the Year

Larry Castle



Larry Castle is a 1978 wildlife graduate. Upon completion of his degree, he went to work for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Today he serves the agency as chief of wildlife. Throughout his career, Castle has continually worked to improve wildlife habitat and increase wildlife populations.

2013

Alumni Fellow

James L. Cummins



James L. Cummins received his Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Management in 1987. Cummins serves as the executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, the executive director of Mississippi Land Trust, and the executive vice president of The Carbon Fund.

Alumnus of the Year

David Barge



David Barge is a 1976 and 1977 forestry graduate. He is president of Barge Forest Products Company which employs over 90 people in his hometown of Macon. His company produces high quality southern yellow pine lumber and owns and manages over 50,000 acres of timberland.



Students in the Human-Wildlife Conflict Techniques class are in the forest demonstrating beaver dam removal.

MSU forest serves as a research and teaching site

Scientists at Mississippi State University are transforming a piece of property in Oktibbeha County into a unique habitat for conducting research and teaching best land management practices. The Andrews Forestry and Wildlife Laboratory is only a few miles from campus in the Longview community.

In this forest, wildlife habitat and timber production are intertwined. Deer, turkey, quail, and an array of grassland songbirds fill the land while healthy streams flow along its boundaries, and pine chip-n-saw and sawtimber cover the forested landscape.

MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center experts began working on the 550-acre property this past fall. The land is a living laboratory that showcases proper land management.

MSU alumnus Lester Andrews donated the property, which is now part of the university's Bulldog Forest. Andrews grew up in Starkville. His father was an agronomy professor and alumnus of MSU. Andrews, who received a bachelor's degree from MSU in chemical engineering, donated the land to provide research opportunities for scientists and

students alike.

"I am a research scientist, and my father was a research scientist, so it is very gratifying for this land to become a living research laboratory," said Andrews, a chemistry and research professor at the University of Virginia. "Having worked in a laboratory all of my life, I understand the need for research and the desire to demonstrate research discoveries to others."

The property has sentimental value for Andrews. His father bought the property in 1979 and cleared it to farm soybeans. He and his father planted the property in pine trees in the winter of 1989.

"Pine trees flourish on the property, and there is evidence that deer and turkey use the property as well," Andrews said. "A living laboratory seemed perfectly suitable for forestry and wildlife researchers to apply different management techniques and to keep the forest productive."

The 23-year-old pine forest will be separated into areas to demonstrate forest production along with deer, turkey, and bobwhite quail habitat.

The pine forest is currently at the age and stage of growth where a final thinning is needed, which

provides an opportunity to thin the various areas to different levels and demonstrate how forests can be managed to address landowner objectives.

The first area will prioritize pine production for revenue generation and associated wildlife habitat values. Trees are being thinned from a basal area of 120 square feet per acre to a basal area of 80 square feet per acre. The second area will emphasize deer and turkey habitat with trees thinned to a basal area of 60 square feet per acre, while the third area will be thinned to a basal area of 40 square feet per acre, to emphasize quail habitat.

In addition to thinning, MSU experts will employ a variety of land management strategies including prescribed fire, disking, mid-rotation brush control, and a combined application of fire and herbicide. They will reserve a control area that receives no additional management.

“One of the great features of this property is that we will be able to look at the volume and value of production on a per-acre basis to determine the differences between the different thinning and management methods,” said Andy Ezell, head of the MSU Department of Forestry. “Obviously, the revenue-generating forest will provide more income. However, the demonstration forest will give us an opportunity to show landowners how different tree spacings can impact wildlife management and revenue. That’s invaluable.”

Wildlife biologist and associate Extension professor Bronson Strickland is also looking forward to demonstrating different management strategies to enhance deer, turkey, and quail habitat while quantifying the economic trade-offs of each strategy.

“There are already wide buffers, or corridors, surrounding the property. Those will be ideal for food plots for white-tailed deer and turkey,” Strickland said. “Prescribed burning on the property will encourage native plants to grow, which creates a source of food and cover for deer, turkey, and quail.”

A road will allow vehicles into the demonstration forest so landowners and managers can view the different management techniques.

The eastern boundary of the property contains a stream edged by hardwood trees. This area will



Pre-thinning (above) and post-thinning (below).



remain untouched to create a streamside management zone and to demonstrate how to manage hardwood trees for both profit and wildlife habitat.

As the forest reaches rotation age, researchers will replant at different times to demonstrate the different stages of forest and wildlife management. Proceeds from the sale of the timber will help fund the demonstration forest and additional university programs for which Andrews has a passion, such as research in soil science, chemistry, and music.

Scientists have already begun management demonstrations. The full demonstration forest will be ready by the summer of 2015.



CFR student's idea is a prize-winning catch

Mississippi State University wildlife and fisheries major Charles Parker hooked the \$10,000 first place prize during the MSU Office of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer Entrepreneurship Week for his fishing gear business.

Parker acquired Rod Sox, a fishing rod protector company, in May 2013 after deciding he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and work in the fishing tackle industry.

"I had already spent several summers working with my father and his soft, plastic fishing lure manufacturing company, and it finally clicked that I could actually make a living and talk about fishing at the same time," Parker said. "The idea was that Rod Sox could be a training ground for me to learn the ins and outs of the fishing tackle industry on my own, but still work closely with my father."

After acquiring Rod Sox, Parker made several changes to the product in order to make it more durable and marketable. Some of the changes included increasing the density of the rod protector's mesh for added durability and adding a rubber tag to allow rods to be hung on a wall.

"We are also pursuing co-branding opportunities with other companies," Parker said. "Basically what we are selling is a service to anglers to simplify their equipment so they can maximize their time on the water."

Parker said the prize money he won during Entrepreneurship Week will help him gain more inventory to keep up with increasing demand.



"I need more inventory so I can get new dealers to sell to, but to get inventory, I need to bring in payments from new dealers. It's somewhat of a 'chicken and egg' dilemma," Parker said. "So the cash infusion is huge in helping me get over my next hump and keep up with sales."

Eric Hill, MSU Office of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer program coordinator, said Parker is a student entrepreneurship all-star.

"In the six months or so he has been involved in our organization, Charles has demonstrated a strong growth trajectory, and his business acumen is well beyond his years," Hill said. "All of us involved with the Entrepreneurship Center and our advisory board strongly believe in his vision, ability to execute, and ultimately realize substantial success."

Parker graduated on May 16 with a bachelor's degree in wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture and has already begun his graduate studies with wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture professor Kevin Hunt.

After completing his education, Parker said he plans to return to his home state of Texas and continue contributing to the fishing industry.

"I think anyone who has ever caught a fish will tell you the same thing: there is nothing in the world like that split second when you realize you have a fish on the other end of your line," Parker said. "We want to make it easier for anglers so they can grab their rods and go, spend less time on the line, and more time enjoying the thrill of the catch."

MSU named a Tree Campus USA

Mississippi State University and its leaders earned national recognition recently for promoting and maintaining healthy trees and inspiring faculty, staff, students, and community members to conserve.

The Arbor Day Foundation named the university a Tree Campus USA. The program honors campuses that implement proper urban forestry management principles and promote environmental stewardship.

"We are a land-grant university, and this honor is really representative of our purpose to educate the people of our state about good stewardship of our natural resources," said Jason Gordon, assistant Extension professor in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center and chair of the Campus Tree Advisory Committee.

Gordon is one of 10 committee members who study, plan, and coordinate campus tree planting and maintenance. The committee consists of three Extension personnel, two teaching faculty, two members of MSU's Campus Landscape and Facilities Management Departments, and three forestry students, one of whom holds the vice-chair position.

"A lot of time, money, and effort goes into the campus landscape, and it is really great to be recognized for the hard work that it takes to maintain our beautiful campus," Gordon said.

Universities and colleges apply for recognition through the Arbor Day Foundation. They must meet five core standards to qualify for the designation, including evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated funding for a campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and sponsorship of student service-learning projects.



MSU fans tailgate under a canopy of trees in the university's Junction.

George L. Switzer
Professor of Forestry

Stephen Dicke



Forestry Extension professor Stephen Dicke was named the George L. Switzer Professor of Forestry. Dicke specializes in urban forestry and timber taxation. He is a certified arborist and assists landowners with a wide range of urban forestry topics, including construction impact, and casualty loss.

Warren S. Thompson Professor of Wood
Science and Technology

Dan Seale



Sustainable Bioproducts professor Dan Seale was named the Warren S. Thompson Professor of Wood Science and Technology. A 30-year veteran at MSU, Seale works in engineered wood and has assisted with the commercialization of products constructed from small-diameter trees and kenaf, a fibrous plant similar to bamboo.

CFR Professorships Awarded

Dale H. Arner Distinguished
Professor of Aquatic Sciences

Eric Dibble



Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture professor Eric Dibble was named the Dale H. Arner Distinguished Professor of Aquatic Sciences. Dibble is a nationally respected scientist in invasive aquatic plants, fish populations, and ecology. Dibble is currently serving as interim head of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture

Sharp Professor of Forestry

David Evans



Forestry professor David Evans was named Sharp Professor of Forestry. The professorship honors an individual who has exemplified leadership in teaching, research, and service. It is funded through the Tishomingo County Sharp Forest, a 1,600-acre tract of timber given to Mississippi State in the 1970s. Evans is noted for his teaching and research in remote-sensing applications.



Celebrating



Bill Stuart

The College of Forest Resources was saddened by the passing of forestry professor Bill Stuart. Dr. Stuart died Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

Dr. Stuart was a professor of Forestry at Mississippi State University. He retired from the faculty at Virginia Tech prior to accepting the position at MSU. He was a mentor and friend to the students and loggers that he worked with over his 49 year career. He instilled in his students, peers, and children that the love of learning was a never-ending quest and that the world presents lessons for us to learn every day.

In the classroom and out in the field, Dr. Stuart was the professor that was always armed with a story and a lesson. He was characterized by a distinct voice, quick wit, and sense of humor. He was known for his toughness in the classroom, but kept up with scores of students, watching with pride as their careers in the forest industry bloomed.

He was named as one of the "25 Men Who Made A Difference" in the South's logging industry for the period of 1972-1997 by Southern Logging Times.

He was a native of Pennsylvania who grew up on the family farm. He earned his bachelor's degree at Penn State, master's degree at Duke University, and his doctorate at Virginia Tech.



Bill Stuart visits with Danny Dructor, executive vice president of the American Loggers Council.

Their Legacy



Charles Burkhardt and DK Knight, executive editor for Hatton-Brown Publishers, Inc.



Equipment show site named for Burkhardt

The 2012 Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show served as a time to honor the memory of long-time MSU forest supervisor and show manager Charles E. Burkhardt. The pavilion and site were formally named for Burkhardt who began the show in 1986.

The show is made possible through the cooperative efforts of four partner organizations: the Mississippi Forestry Association, the Mississippi Loggers Association,

Mississippi State University, and Hatton-Brown Publishers, Inc.

Burkhardt initiated the idea of a permanent structure and tirelessly coordinated the effort to make it happen. Construction of the pavilion was completed in August 2003 just before the show in September.

Today the pavilion and site welcomes thousands of attendees every two years to the Starr Forest and is known as the permanent location of the longest-running, live, in-woods demonstration of equipment in the nation.

Charles was forest supervisor at MSU for 31 years and worked as show manager from the beginning until his untimely passing in September 2011. In so many ways, his career with MSU is defined by and coincides with the history of the show – a proud history of offering an outreach opportunity for the technology transfer between equipment manufacturers and end users in Mississippi and beyond. The Charles E. Burkhardt Pavilion and Site, located on the John W. Starr Memorial Forest, is a fitting tribute to the memory and dedicated service of a well-loved colleague and friend.

Forest Foundation funds scholarships

The Mississippi Forestry Foundation is investing in the lives of students at Mississippi State University.

The foundation, a nonprofit division of the Mississippi Forestry Association, created two endowed scholarships in the College of Forest Resources through the “Infinite Impact: The Mississippi State University Campaign.”

The foundation’s membership previously supported one of the most coveted scholarships in the college, an annual \$2,500 award. The most recent gifts are in addition to that annual scholarship.

One of the gifts establishes the Mississippi Forestry Foundation Endowed Scholarship. Only students with high academic achievement and extensive extracurricular and community activity are eligible for this award.

The newly established Mississippi Forestry Association Endowed Summer Camp Award helps students pay for the summer field session, a nine-week program of intensive field training.

While other forestry schools have discontinued summer field camp and hands-on training, MSU has embraced the program as a valuable component to forestry education.

“We adamantly believe that the hands-on instruction that our students receive during the summer field session prepares them for their careers and makes them more attractive to prospective employers,” said Andy Ezell, forestry department head.

The Mississippi Forestry Foundation began its financial commitment in 2012 with a 75,000 gift to endow both the scholarship and the summer field camp award. Since then they have pledged another \$45,000 to increase the impact and benefit more students.

Kennedy gift to benefit wetland theater, grow endowed chair

A gift of real estate in Carroll County serves as a lead contribution for Mississippi State University’s Carsie Clark and Diane Worthington Young Wetland Education Theater and increases a previously established endowment for the James C. Kennedy Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation.

James C. Kennedy, chairman of Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises, provided the gift valued at more than \$4.7 million. Proceeds from the sale of the land will be used to help complete the theater and provide additional funding for the position Kennedy endowed in 2008 in MSU’s College of Forest Resources.

Kennedy is a fervent conservationist of waterfowl and wildlife habitat. His commitment to conservation includes founding his company’s Cox Conserves national sustainability program that focuses on reducing waste and energy consumption, as well as conserving water. Kennedy has played key volunteer leadership roles with Ducks Unlimited, and served as president of the Wetlands America Trust for 15 years.

The Carsie Clark and Diane Worthington Young Wetland Education Theater will be located on open land east of the Landscape Architecture Building and adjacent to Thompson Hall, at the corner of Stone and Bully Boulevards on the university’s Starkville campus. A flowing walkway and bridge network will connect numerous covered structures throughout the site. Interpretive signage will illustrate the native plant species and natural wetland, slope, and upland settings.

“The wetland education center will be invaluable to expose students in landscape architecture, forestry, wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture, to green infrastructure and sustainable applications such as man-made wetlands,” said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources.

The theater received initial funding in 2010 through a bequest of West Point native and longtime conservationist Carsie Clark Young Sr. Young was president of Clark Vending Co. and served as a director and secretary of both C.C. Clark Inc. and Clark Distributing Co.



David and Isa Hall with their sons, Matthew and Christopher, and his father Maurice H. Hall Jr.

Hall Timberlands funds scholarship and research

Timberland is a significant part of the Hall legacy. The family has stewarded and carefully harvested its timber for three generations, and now they are entrusting Mississippi State University with their valuable resource.

A 245-acre parcel of timberland in Noxubee County, Miss., has become part of the university's Bulldog Forest. Known as the Hall Timberlands Forest, the property will be used as a living laboratory for the students and faculty of the university and for forestry and wildlife research and training. MSU will manage the forest, and proceeds will provide scholarships for students majoring in forestry.

As a third generation timberland management professional dedicated to sustainable forestry, David Hall believes an excellent education is the cornerstone of the timber industry. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1999 and an MBA in 2002, and he puts his MSU degrees to use as he manages Hall Timberlands.

Hall Timberlands is a family-owned business. The company plants and grows timber, which is sold to mills to be processed into pulp, chips, and sawtimber for plywood and dimensioned construction lumber. It also contracts with other companies to harvest and deliver trees to mills. Hall Timberlands currently holds

approximately 60,000 acres in Mississippi.

"We maximize real value by maintaining a perpetual, sustainable forest, a diverse canopy of trees, teeming with animals, birds, and clear streams, yielding wood products that provide fuel, shelter, and useful materials," David said.

Hall Timberlands began when David's grandfather, Maurice H. Hall Sr. of Bay Springs, purchased his first timberland in 1938. After working as a bookkeeper at a sawmill, he grew pine and hardwood timber in East Central Mississippi. He operated mills in the towns of Shubuta, Meridian, and Gulfport from 1941 through 1965. For three decades, David's father, Maurice H. Hall Jr., also worked with his grandfather to turn the focus of the business to acquisition, cultivation, conservation, and management. Today, the company is owned by Maurice H. Hall Jr., his sister, Mary Cheek Hall Davis, and their children.

"I do believe it is my responsibility to ensure this treasured family land is preserved for Mississippi State University to use as a living laboratory for learning and research," David said.

Mississippi State University currently has nearly 25,000 acres in its Bulldog Forest program in the College of Forest Resources.

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact Jeff Little at jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu or 662.325.8151.



MSU scientists develop forestry software program

Mississippi State University scientists have created a new software program to help foresters and landowners manage hardwood timber.

Forestry professors Emily Schultz and Tom Matney developed the software and user's guide based on 33 years of research.

The free software provides expected yields and future growth values for the red oak-sweetgum forest mixture that is widely distributed across Mississippi river bottoms.

Researchers used more than 29,000 tree records to develop the software, and 2,103 of those trees were professionally graded.

The red oak-sweetgum growth and yield system predicts the volume of merchantable sawtimber by grade category and species group. The software contains four tabbed worksheets that allow different levels of user input.

Predicted trees per acre, diameters, basal area, and volume by species group are reported in both tabular and graphical form. Volumes are produced in board feet and cubic feet by log grade, which allows realistic current and future valuation of stands.

Six graduate students developed components of the software as part of their degree requirements. The project was completed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research in Stoneville, Mississippi.

The software is available at fwrc.msstate.edu/software.asp.

MSU Forestry Extension project wins national award

The Mississippi State University Extension Service gained national recognition for a program designed to protect the state's timberlands from an insect pest. The **Mississippi Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program** received the 2012 Family Forests Education Award at the Society of American Foresters' national convention. The honor is given annually by the National Woodland Owners Association and the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs. It honors the educational institution that has delivered the most effective educational program benefiting non-industrial, private forest landowners.

Wildlife Society recognizes professor's diversity efforts

The Wildlife Society awarded **Bruce Leopold** the prestigious Diversity Award. Leopold has earned a national reputation for his efforts to promote diversity both within The Wildlife Society and the natural resources profession.

MSU professor honored for wildlife conservation

Steve Demarais, professor of wildlife ecology and management in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, was named 2013 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. Demarais is the Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management and has spent three decades studying wildlife. For the last 15 years, he has worked specifically on various deer herd management techniques.

MSU associate professor honored for service

Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture associate professor **Kevin Hunt** recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture assistant professor **Robbie Kroger** received the CFR Teaching Award. He began his tenure at Mississippi State in 2009 and has already amassed 12 graduate students who have completed their degree program.



Forestry associate professor **Robert Grala** received the CFR Service Award. Grala serves as advisor to the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Grala is noted for his service to the community, university, and professional organizations.



Jerry Belant, wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture associate professor, received the CFR Research Award. Belant's research focuses on large mammal ecology and management. In just three years he has garnered over \$6.6 million in extramural research funding.

Faculty and Staff Award Winners



Forestry assistant professor **Morgan Varner** received the CFR Early Career Achievement Award. Varner works in the area of fire ecology. A relative newcomer, Varner began his career at MSU in 2012 and is the major professor to four graduate students and has garnered nearly \$2 million in extramural grants.



James Henderson received the CFR Extension/Outreach Award. Henderson is an associate Extension professor in forestry. He is praised for his publications addressing the impact of forestry and forest products on Mississippi's timber-producing counties.



Forest products staff members Kay Davidson (left) and Karen Williams were honored with the Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards in the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Williams is a business manager and Davidson is an administrative assistant.

MSU fisheries professor gets conservation award

The Mississippi chapter of the American Fisheries Society recently honored Donald Jackson with the C.A. Schultz Conservation Award. Jackson recently retired as a professor in MSU's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture.



The society gives the award to individuals in the fisheries field who have dedicated their careers to conserving Mississippi's natural resources.

A Sharp Distinguished Professor of Fisheries, Jackson's research has helped to conserve fisheries throughout the state.

Jackson has been active in the American Fisheries Society for several years. Ten years ago, he helped develop the C.A. Schultz award to honor his friend and mentor.

Forestry professor writes new textbook, named fellow

Forestry professor Donald Grebner is the lead author on a new forestry and natural resources textbook.



Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources provides a general overview of the forestry and natural resources profession, as well as the history of forestry, landowner objectives, forest disturbances, ecosystem services, and urban forestry.

Grebner spent three years writing the 508-page book, in collaboration with University of Georgia colleagues Pete Bettinger and Jacek Siry.

Grebner was also named a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters in 2013.



MSU waterfowl program receives national award

Mississippi State University's waterfowl and wetlands science program was recently honored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a program of the service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, gave the Blue-winged Teal Award to MSU's program because of its significant contributions to waterfowl, other wetland-associated migratory bird populations, and wetlands habitats.

Richard M. Kaminski, professor and chair holder of the James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation leads MSU's award-winning waterfowl and wetlands science and conservation program.

Kaminski and his colleagues are recognized as leaders in waterfowl and wetlands science education. Their studies have been instrumental in strengthening the science and importance of winter habitat conditions on waterfowl populations.

More than 40 MSU graduates work directly or indirectly to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan locally, nationally, and internationally. The MSU group has worked to ensure that the conservation priorities and strategies in the plan reflect contemporary science.

ACCOLADES

The Youth Environmental Science program received the third place Gulf Guardian Award in the Environmental Justice and Cultural Diversity category. The Gulf of Mexico Program, a consortium sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, gives the award annually. **Leslie Burger** and **Jessica Tegt**, Mississippi State University Extension Service faculty in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, created the program two years ago. Burger and Tegt have taught more than 1,200 students each year and studied the program's impacts on science learning.

A world leader in paper and building products manufacturing is praising Mississippi State as a top producer of the company's new employees. **Georgia-Pacific** recently recognized the university as its No. 1 generator of total new hires from institutions of higher learning offering forest products concentrations.

Richard M. Kaminski is being recognized for his contributions and service to wildlife science and conservation. Kaminski, a professor in the MSU Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, received the 2013 Clarence W. Watson Award at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Oklahoma City last October. The award is the association's most prestigious honor. It is presented jointly by the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society, Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies directors.

Wes Neal, associate Extension professor in wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture, received the Jack F. Dequine Best Fisheries Paper Award from the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

MSU appoints new forest resources associate dean

Ian Munn, a forest resource economist and professor, is the new associate dean in the College of Forest Resources.

As associate dean, Munn will coordinate all aspects of undergraduate programs, including curriculum, student advising, and scholarships.

Munn has a distinguished career at MSU and has served as a forestry professor for more than twenty years. His course on professional practices is considered the capstone class of the forestry curriculum. Over time he has transformed the course to enable students to work directly with landowners to develop management plans for their properties.

Munn's research interests include natural resource economics. He currently serves in an elected position on the Society of American Foresters national council representing members in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.



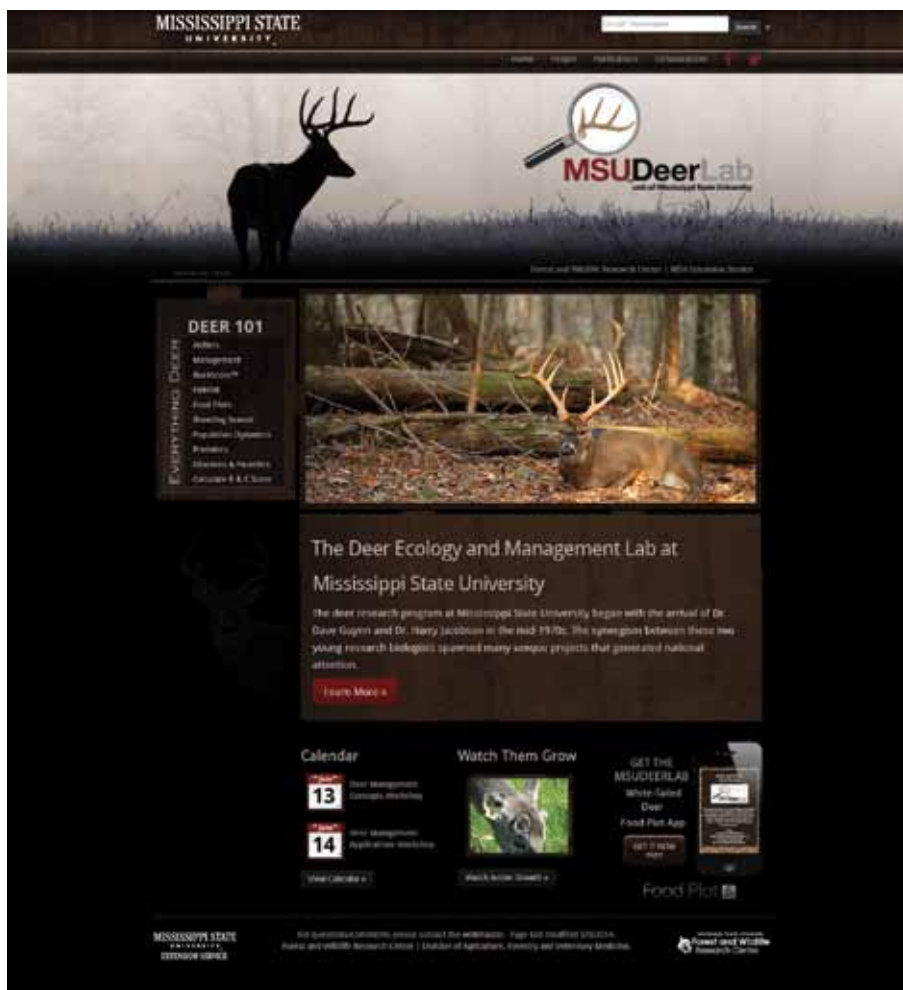
Wildlife society honors MSU associate director

Loren W. "Wes" Burger Jr., a professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, was recognized for exceptional service to the wildlife profession at the 2013 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society. Burger serves as associate director of the MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

Burger's research interests include bobwhite quail and grassland bird ecology and management. He served as project coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Northern Bobwhite Habitat Restoration Project, a research effort to determine wildlife response to Farm Bill conservation practices.

Burger is a Grisham Master Teacher and was named the Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management in the College of Forest Resources.





MSU website focuses on white-tailed deer

MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center recently launched the MSU Deer Lab website, msudeer.com. The site is based on four decades of research conducted by researchers in the university's deer ecology and management laboratory.

Scientists in the lab are well known by biologists and land managers for their studies about white-tailed deer genetics, habitat, and population management. The website provides a way to get the research information into a user-friendly format so others can benefit.

The MSU Deer Lab website is comprehensive, offering not only information about the lab but also a section called Deer 101, which informs visitors about white-tailed deer.

Associate Extension professor Bronson Strickland and professor Steve Demarais developed content for the website based on their research and the research of graduate students, as well as questions asked by land managers, biologists, and landowners.

college of forest resources

MSU unit changes name, emphasizes sustainability

A Mississippi State University department has been renamed to reflect the renewable, natural, and sustainable resources used in the industry.

The MSU Department of Forest Products is now the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts.

Department head Rubin Shmulsky said that over the last few decades, the profession has grown and evolved to include both wood and other bioproducts, including agricultural residues, natural fibers, and adhesives. He said the name change reflects the focus on renewable, sustainable products that are already part of the MSU program.

"Across the U.S., university-level wood science and forest products programs have evolved to include a broadened focus on sustainability, conservation, renewable resources, and environmental stewardship," Shmulsky said. "While these concepts have always been included in the MSU program, it is important that the department name reflects this effort."

Established in 1964, the department is a national leader in the development of wood durability and preservation technologies, the conversion of woody biomass into liquid fuels, the use of small diameter and low-value trees, and the testing of engineered wood products in furniture.

The department currently offers graduate degrees only. Faculty and administrators are developing a new sustainable bioproducts undergraduate curriculum.

"The department's research contributes significantly to the Mississippi economy," said George Hopper, dean of the MSU College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. "This new name better reflects the departmental mission and goals for research, teaching, and service."

MSU expert named fellow in world society

An aquaculture researcher at Mississippi State University has been named a Fellow of the World Aquaculture Society for his contributions to the advancement of global aquaculture.

Aquaculture specialist Lou D'Abramo—who recently retired as dean of MSU's Office of the Graduate School—was honored at the World Aquaculture Society's annual meeting. He is one of three experts elected by their peers as fellows in 2013 to honor their outstanding achievements in aquaculture science, industry, outreach, or extension.

D'Abramo's aquaculture research interests focus on the development of commercial fish production practices that are environmentally sustainable and use natural resources wisely. He has studied the farming of freshwater prawn, hybrid striped bass, catfish, crawfish, abalone, and sea urchins.



MSU forestry professor named a society fellow

Emily Schultz was recently named a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters.

A forestry professor, Schultz was honored by the professional forestry organization for her contributions to the society and the forestry profession.

Her areas of research include computer forest modeling, forest inventory, and hardwood growth and yield.

While at MSU, Schultz and colleague Tom Matney developed the Mississippi Forestry Inventory System, a software program that estimates the volume of timber in the state. Bioenergy and forest products companies have used the program to determine the optimum locations for mills based on the availability and distribution of raw resources.

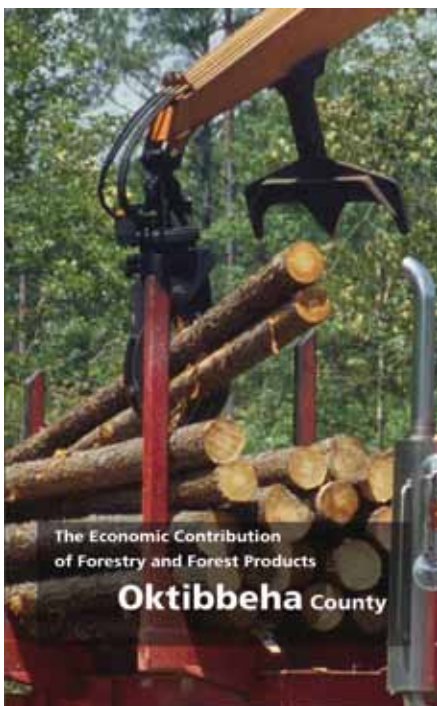


Forestry journal features Extension Service series

The cover of the November 2013 issue of the Journal of Forestry highlights a Mississippi State University Extension Service publication series available to anyone interested in the forestry industry.

"The article on the economics of forestry and forest products in rural Mississippi provides details on the substantial impacts of the forestry sector on jobs and wages," said George Hopper, director of the MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center. "This research is important, and having it featured on the cover showcases MSU Extension and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center as national leaders in forestry and natural resource economics."

The journal's cover story examines the Extension publication series titled The Economic Contribution of Forestry and Forest Products, written by assistant Extension forestry professor James Henderson and forestry professor Ian Munn. Extension published a two-page publication for each of the state's 71 predominately forested counties. Each report explains how county economies benefit from the forestry and forest products industries.





MSU graduate student honored for duck study

Kira Newcomb, a Mississippi State University graduate student in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture recently took second place in a competition at an international symposium.

Newcomb won for the delivery of an oral presentation on black duck winter survival and habitat use at the sixth North American Duck Symposium and Workshop held Jan. 26-31, 2013 in Memphis, Tenn.

Since 2010, Newcomb's research has focused on female black ducks in the Mississippi Flyway, and specifically on the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, an important wintering area for black ducks in the flyway. American black duck populations have been in decline since the 1950s, but the observed rate of decline has been much greater in the Mississippi Flyway than in the Atlantic Flyway.

Newcomb's research will be used to guide future management and research on the refuge.

"This study will help us better understand how black ducks select habitats at one of the species' most important wintering sites in the flyway," said Brian Davis, assistant professor in MSU's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture and researcher in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center. "Information from this study will help refuge managers identify the most beneficial resources for black ducks in these areas."

Newcomb is working with Davis, Richard Kaminski, and Matt Gray of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

CFR students sweep bottomland hardwood meeting

Three Mississippi State University graduate students competed at the 60th Annual Southern Hardwood Forest Research Group Meeting held Feb. 21 in Stoneville, Mississippi, with students from several universities around the region, including the University of Mississippi, the University of Arkansas, and Louisiana Tech University. **Thomas Peterson**, a graduate student in wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture from Vail, Colorado, took first place in the Dr. John Adams Graduate Student Poster Competition. **Zhen Sui**, a doctoral student in forestry from China, placed second, and **Jacob Beard**, graduate student in forestry from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, placed third.

MSU fisheries students receive regional award

Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture students at Mississippi State University recently received top honors from the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Members of MSU's student organization affiliated with the American Fisheries Society received the 2012 Outstanding Subunit Award during the society's regional meeting.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society excels at Conclave

The MSU chapter placed fifth overall out of 21 colleges at the Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave hosted by the Clemson University student chapter of The Wildlife Society. The quiz bowl team took fourth place this year, and a couple of members took home individual awards. **Brent Barron** placed first in the turkey calling competition, second in the cervid calling competition, and third in archery. **Sean Austin** placed third in fly casting.

Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture student **Katherine Abell** placed first in community engagement and first in social sciences at the MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture graduate students **Amy Alford** and **Cory Shoemaker** won first place and second place, respectively, for oral presentations at the Mississippi Water Resources Research Conference. Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture student **Austin Omer** won first place for his poster presentation at the conference.

Forestry doctoral student **Paul Jeffreys** won second place for his oral presentation at the MSU Graduate Student Symposium.

Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture students **Clint Lloyd** and **Cynthia Fox** placed first and second, respectively, for their presentations at the Mississippi Chapter of the

American Fisheries Society annual meeting.

Edward Mutandwa, a doctoral student in forestry, placed third in the student poster competition at the Society of American Foresters 2013 national convention.

Raju Pokharel, a doctoral student in forestry, won a first place in the student poster competition at the annual conference of the National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness (NCITEC).

Forestry student **Zachary A. Senneff** placed second in the MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, Biological Sciences and Engineering poster competition.

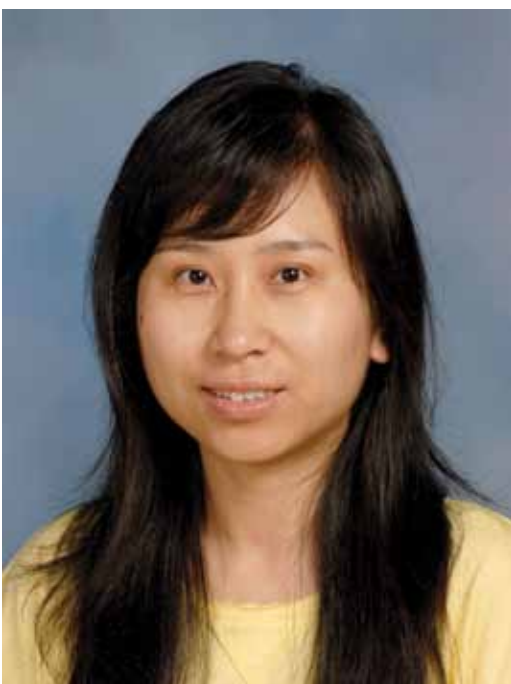
Wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture student **Heather Stewart** received the Skinner Memorial Award at the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. **Caroline Andrews**

received honorable mention.

Heather Stewart, wildlife, fisheries, and aquaculture student, was awarded the outstanding student presentation at the Aquaculture America Conference.

Forestry graduate students **Fan Zhan** and **Zhuo Ning** took second and third place, respectively, for their poster presentations at the 2014 International Society of Forest Resource Economics Symposium (formerly SOFEW).

Zhuo Bonnie Yang, a sustainable bioproducts graduate student and forestry major **Kelvin Banks**, were on the national timber bridge team, a joint effort between the student chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Forest Products Society. MSU scored second place in net bridge deflection, first in the deck deflection, and second in total weight.



MSU doctoral graduate wins international award

Qi Li, a sustainable bioproducts graduate student, received the International Forest Products Society Wood Award.

Li's work at MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center focused on finding suitable, fast-growing, renewable resources to replace the use of fossil fuels.

"I'm trying to characterize the oil derived from renewable resources to see the influence of the chemicals in the biomass and how that affects the quality of the oil," Li said.

The Wood Award is the highest honor given to graduate students for outstanding research about wood and wood products. It recognizes original and innovative research that makes a significant contribution to the field.

Burnham named vice president, Ridgeland campus

Holmes Community College has recently named Dr. Don Burnham as vice president of its Ridgeland Campus.

Burnham is a lifelong Mississippi resident. After graduating from Laurel High School, Burnham went on to Mississippi State University, where he earned bachelor's degrees in both business management and forestry (1978). He earned an MBA from MSU and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

Before coming to Holmes, Burnham spent 25 years working in various capacities for Georgia Pacific.



Enlow named VP at Weyerhaeuser

Weyerhaeuser Company announced the appointment of John Enlow as vice president, Southern Timberlands, effective February, 24, 2014.

Enlow joins Weyerhaeuser from Rayonier, where he was director of that company's Atlantic and Northern timberlands regions.

Before joining Rayonier, he held roles in sales, finance, and forestry at Union Camp Corporation. Enlow holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (1990) from Mississippi State University and an MBA from Brenau University in Kings Bay, Ga. He also is a graduate of Wharton's Executive Strategy program.



USFWS regional director Cindy Dohner and MSU alumnus Ron Seiss.

Photo: Garry Tucker, USFWS.

Award for Conservation Partners: Ron Seiss, The Nature Conservancy

Wildlife and fisheries alumnus Ron Seiss (1989) received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director's Honor Award for Conservation Partners.

USFWS regional director Cindy Dohner recognized Seiss during ceremonies in October 2013.

"Recognizing the excellence of partners, volunteers, and employees is one way we can say thank you to those who practice what we like to call 'Southern-style conservation'," Dohner said. "Every day, they demonstrate their long-term commitment to working together to sustain fish and wildlife for future generations. We are indebted to them."

Seiss chaired the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture for several years and was the inaugural vice chairman of the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative. He supports the efforts of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture's Forest Resources Conservation Working Group, promoting desired forest conditions for bottomland forests across the alluvial valley. Since his retirement as Director of Conservation Programs at Mississippi's Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, he joined The Nature Conservancy's Lower Mississippi River Conservation Program as its director.



Carlton Owen, President and CEO of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, signed a master agreement with USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in January. The Endowment and the Forest Service have collaborated on numerous projects since the Endowment's creation in 2006. This new master agreement reflects the importance of this partnership and opens the door for expanded collaboration on a range of initiatives that are critical for the future of working forests. Owen is a MSU alumnus, earning a bachelor's degree in forestry (1974) and a master's degree in wildlife ecology (1976).

Chamberlain awarded for turkey research



Michael J. Chamberlain (wildlife and fisheries 1995, 1999), received the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) Henry S. Mosby Award for his dedication to conservation.

The Mosby Award is named for Henry S. Mosby, Ph.D., whose research during the mid-1900s set the standard for wild turkey management.

Chamberlain, a professor at the University of Georgia, completed years of research that will help conserve wildlife and habitat. Chamberlain is coordinating a study on the decline of turkeys in the Southeast, which is a first study of its kind in the nation.

Blocker joins Weyerhaeuser as lumber VP

Weyerhaeuser Company announced Adrian M. Blocker joined the company as vice president of lumber.

"We are excited to welcome Adrian to Weyerhaeuser," said Larry Burrows, senior vice president, wood products. "He will be a great addition to our team, bringing more than 30 years of broad forest products operational and corporate experience in forestland management, fiber procurement, and lumber and plywood manufacturing."

Blocker has held positions in leadership, strategic planning, business development, manufacturing, and sales management at Champion International, International Paper, and West Fraser. He holds bachelor's degrees in business and forestry (1979) and an MBA, all from MSU.



Peterman joins MSU Extension as aquaculture associate

Mark Peterman joined the Mississippi State University Extension Service as the new aquaculture associate March 1.

Peterman returned to MSU after nine years at Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, where he was a member of the farm management team.

He earned a bachelor's degree in fisheries management from MSU (1996) and a master's degree in aquaculture from Auburn University.

Peterman, a native of Gulfport, said he is happy to be back home and working with Mississippi producers.



College of Forest Resources homecoming tailgate brought together alumni for a photo op. **Matt Gray** (wildlife and fisheries 1995), **Jeffrey Lee** (forestry 1991, wildlife and fisheries 1994), **Darren Miller** (wildlife and fisheries 1993, 1997) and **Brian Davis** (wildlife and fisheries 1998, 2001).

1960s

Emmette Earl Alford (forestry 1966) retired as the Amite County forester from the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He and wife Pauline live in Summit, Mississippi.

1970s

Curtis Hopkins (forestry 1971, wildlife and fisheries 1973) retired from Ducks Unlimited as director of operations for the southern region.

David Alexander Smith (forestry 1975) has retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a district conservationist. He and wife Gwen live in Poplarville, Mississippi.

Jerry W. Windham (forestry 1978) is retired and living in Brandon, Mississippi with his wife Doris.

1970s

Jim Shepard (forestry 1979, 1985) is dean and professor at Auburn University.

1990s

Trevor Wayne Flint (forestry 1990) is a student in the Air War College for the U.S. Air Force.

Rick Lint (wildlife and fisheries 1990) is forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. He and wife Stephanie live in Irmo, South Carolina.

Phillip Smith (forestry 1994, 1996) is senior resource land manager for Rayonier, Inc. He and wife Emily reside in Monroeville, Alabama.

Jeffrey Chad Phillips (forestry 1995) is an environmental specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

1990s

John Bray (forestry 1997) is a consulting forester in Shongaloo, Louisiana.

Barbara Ann Lercel-Avers (wildlife and fisheries 1997) is a waterfowl and wetland specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. She and husband Don reside in Bath, Michigan.

Jonathan Daniel McKee (forestry 1997) is owner of Abstar Land and Timber, LLC. He and wife Laura reside in Florence, Alabama.

Daniel Cassidy (forestry 1998) is senior advisor, natural resources and energy for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Chief Scientist. He and wife Laura live in Stafford, Virginia.

Chris Furr (forestry 1998) is a Tres Piedras district ranger in the Carson National Forest. He and wife Kathryn reside in Taos, New Mexico.

James Austin (forestry 1999) is a private lands biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He and wife Emily live in Madison, Mississippi.

Andrew Sanchez Meador (forestry 1999, 2002) is assistant professor and program director at the School of Forestry and Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University. He and wife Katherine reside in Flagstaff, Arizona. Meador specializes in forest biostatistics and quantitative ecology.

Marc Measells (forestry 1999, 2001) received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mississippi Society of American Foresters. Measells is a research associate in forestry and resides in Starkville, Mississippi.

2000s

Amanda Latham Husak (forestry 2000) is the academic affairs coordinator for Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Yawanna Nabors McDonald (forest products 2001) is an associate attorney for Leitman, Siegal, Payne and Cambell, P.C. She lives with her husband Vernell in Pinson, Alabama.

John Taylor (forestry 2001) is wood superintendent for Graphic Packaging International. He and wife Lori live in Monroe, Louisiana.

Cliff Anderson (forestry 2002, 2005) is GIS administrator for Soterra, LLC. He and wife Sarah live in Long Beach, Mississippi.

Timothy Shane Harrington (forestry 2003) is the farm bill coordinator for the Texas Forest Service. He is stationed in the NRCS state office in Temple, Texas. In this position, Harrington works with the NRCS to maintain financial assistance programs that landowners depend on to carry out management activities on their lands. He also finds or assist in the development of new programs for traditional and non-traditional landowners. In his spare time he hunts and plans new hunting adventures around the world.

Jeremy Clay (wildlife and fisheries 2004) is an attorney for Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP. He and wife Karen live in Jackson.

Robert McNeel Harmon (forestry 2004) is a land and timber buyer for T. K. Stanley, Inc. He and wife Bobbie Diane live in Meridian, Mississippi.

Sharon D. Fuller (wildlife and fisheries 2006) is an education specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

2000s

Celina Phelps (forest products 2006) is a molecular biologist for the New Mexico Department of Health in Albuquerque.

James Callicut (wildlife and fisheries 2007, 2010) is a waterfowl program biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. He and wife Baylea live in Canton, Mississippi.

Joshua Moree (forestry 2007) is a wildlife biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. He resides in Sumrall, Mississippi.

George Banzhaf (forestry 2009) is president of Banzhaf Resource Information Management. He and wife Rebecca reside in Meridian, Mississippi.

Benjamin Newton Walker IV (wildlife and fisheries 2009) is a loan advisor for SurePoint Lending in Nashville, Tennessee.

2010s

Daniel Jay Dembkowski (wildlife and fisheries 2010) is a Ph.D. graduate research assistant at South Dakota State University. He resides in Brookings, South Dakota.

Dillon McInnis (forestry 2010) is a firefighter for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He resides in Starkville, Mississippi.

Hoover McKie (forestry 2010) is the Stone County service forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He resides in Wiggins, Mississippi.

Jonathan Ross Duncan (forestry 2011) is a forest manager for Molpus Timberlands Management, LLC. He resides in Sterlington, Louisiana.

2010s

Joshua Matthew Osborn (wildlife and fisheries 2011) is an assistant waterfowl ecologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey (Forbes Biological Station).

Stephen Cole Green (forestry 2013) is a service forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He and wife Holly live in Winona, Mississippi.

IN MEMORY

Lowell Douglas Carter (forestry 1974) died January 7, 2013 at River Region Hospital, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Lowell was a graduate of Byram High School, Hinds Jr. College and Mississippi State University where he received a bachelor's degree in forestry. He had worked for the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Georgia Pacific, and St. Regis Paper Company before becoming an independent land and timber buyer and owner of Edwards Forest Products Inc. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting rabbit, turkey, and deer. Lowell provided handicapped children an opportunity to hunt through Hunting for the Handicapped on his property. He won many state championships in the AQHA Reining and Pleasure Competitions and enjoyed training horses for others. Lowell was a natural athlete, excelling in all sports. He enjoyed dirt track racing and as owner of Edwards Forest Products, sponsored car number 22L in UMP modified and late model races across the Southeast.

Harold Curtis Gordon Jr. (forestry 1973) died February 4, 2014 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle in Columbus, Mississippi. Gordon was born October 28, 1951, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Gordon was a lifelong resident of the three county area, Choctaw, Oktibbeha, and Winston, having gone to school in Weir, Louisville, Sturgis, and Mississippi State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in forestry. He worked for 16 years with Sturgis Lumber Company, until he went into business for

himself in 1990 as a forester and consultant. Gordon was involved professionally with the Society of American Foresters, serving in both local and state positions. He served as President of the Mississippi State School of Forest Resources Alumni Association. He was also active in the Mississippi Forestry Association, having served in various positions, including president.

Charles Green (forestry 1959) died September 21, 2012 at Crossgates River Oaks Hospital in Brandon, Mississippi. He was a native of the Bond community of Neshoba County but had been a resident of Pearl, Mississippi for a number of years. He was a retired forester from the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He was a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association and the Neshoba County Forestry Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Mississippi State University. Green was a member of McLaurin Heights United Methodist Church in Pearl.

Timothy Ryan Hinton (forestry 2009) died November 18, 2012 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, from injuries received in a hunting accident. Tim was a service forester and tree farm inspector with the Mississippi Forestry Commission in Jasper County. He was a graduate of Mississippi State University and of the Protestant faith. He was a member of the Mississippi Board of Registered Foresters and the Mississippi Forestry Association. An avid hunter and fisherman, he was also a member of the Sharon Hunting Club, a big NASCAR fan, and loved playing the guitar.

Michael Dee McDonald (forestry 1982) died December 14, 2012. McDonald worked for the Mississippi Forestry Commission in Wayne and Newton counties.

Jason Daniel Pigg (forestry 1982) died December 20, 2012 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle in Columbus, Mississippi. Pigg was a graduate of

Rutherford High School in Panama City, Florida, and earned his bachelor's degree in forestry at Mississippi State University. Since 1994, he was a self-employed forester who managed the Double Deuce Ranch in Shuqualak, Mississippi. Formerly he was employed with Mississippi State University's Department of Forestry as a forestry research assistant in forest genetics under Sam Land and Emily Schultz. He worked with the Mississippi Forestry Commission in Starkville as a forestry technician, and was a procurement forester with the Sturgis Pulpwood Company in Sturgis, Mississippi. He was an avid outdoorsman, loving husband, and wonderful father. He held memberships in the Society of American Foresters, Starkville Academy Athletic Booster Club, Starkville Academy Patrons Association, season ticket holder to MSU Baseball, MSU Oktibbeha County Alumni Association, former member of the MSU Bulldog Club, Oktibbeha County Forest Farmers Association, Land O' Lakes Area, Inc., and Noxubee County Forest Farmers. He was a Mississippi registered forester for almost thirty years and was awarded Progressive Farmer magazine's Big Game Management of the Year for 1996 and the Noxubee County Wildlife Management of the Year for 1995.

Send us your updates



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