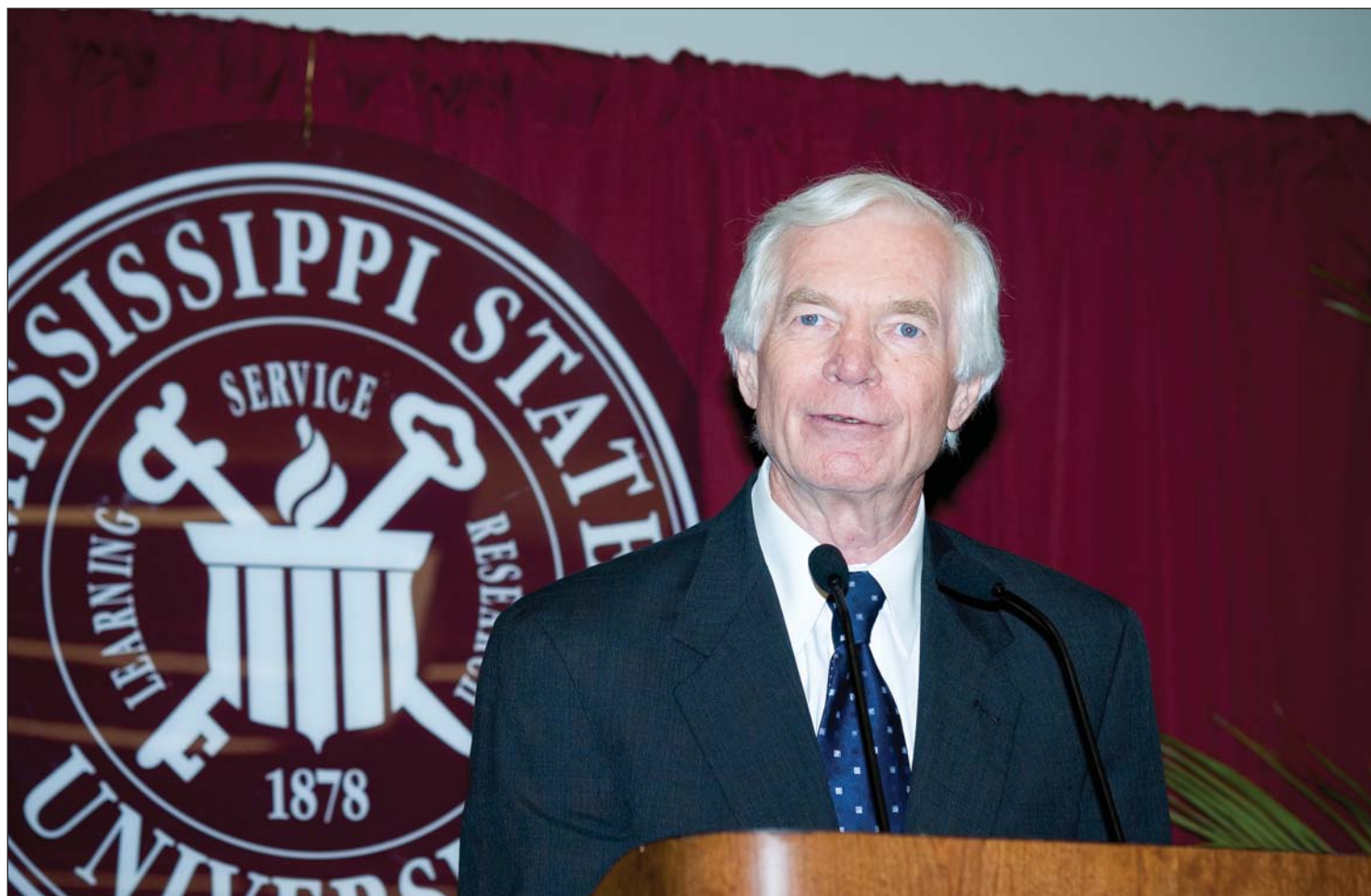


College of
Forest Resources
FOREST RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2005



Sen. Thad Cochran was the keynote speaker as the college celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Forest Resources

DEAN'S COMMENTS

The College of Forest Resources is 50 years old! If you missed the Sept. 24 celebration, you missed a party indeed. We kicked off the celebration with a historical review of the CFR by Dr. Warren Thompson; crystal ball gazing for forestry, forest products, and wildlife and fisheries by Dr. Dick Porterfield, Dr. Paul Winistorfer, and Carlton Owen, respectively; and a summary by Dr. Vance Watson. Their core message was that the human element on a global scale must be more strongly considered in natural resources management and that students should be trained to engage politically. Sen. Thad Cochran capped the evening with an informative address. We still are a relatively young college—the forest resources program at Iowa celebrated its centennial this year. With more than 60 percent of the state forested and the forest industry a dominant contributor to Mississippi's economy, the College of Forest Resources has a bright future.


However, change is inevitable in any organization if it is to retain vitality and leadership. A change that I want you to consider is an expansion of the college to include other departments and a change of its name to more closely represent its membership. Financial constraints on universities will most likely continue as the number of traditional college age students (18-25 years old) declines. Today, the College of Forest Resources has less than 400 students—considerably less than several departments on campus. Sources of financial resources are increasingly more broadly directed to natural resources as opposed to the traditional commodity approach. Change may be inevitable, but I firmly believe that forestry must be the bedrock of the management of Mississippi's natural resources and of any future growth in this college regardless of its name.

Speaking of change, we have named a new head of the Department of Forestry. Jim Shepard, forestry alumnus, took over as head of the department on Jan. 1. The search has begun for a new dean of the College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. I urge you to actively participate in the identifying and securing of an outstanding leader for the position.

Our students are continuing to excel. The MSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters was well represented at the joint meeting of the Society of American Foresters and the Canadian Institute of Forestry, where they won first-place honors in student chapter competition and first place in Web site competition. They have been ranked among the top student chapters in the nation for the last six years of competition. They have won first place in the last two years for the Web site competition.

We appreciate the tremendous support that we receive from friends and alumni of the College of Forest Resources. If you should be on campus, please stop by for a visit.

Sincerely,



Bob L. Karr



"...change is inevitable in any organization if it is

College of Forest Resources celebrates

50th anniversary



At no time have America's natural resources been more at risk. As a result, at no time has it been more critical to adequately prepare students for a complex, changing world.

In brief, those are the central observations of several speakers recently helping Mississippi State celebrate the 50th anniversary of its College of Forest Resources.

In programs capping the year-long university celebration, the state's senior U.S. senator, veteran educators and industry leaders urged the forest resources profession to take stock of the economic and social pressures affecting natural resources. They also collectively called for the development of teaching tools that can successfully address the challenges.

Sen. Thad Cochran [R-Miss.], chair of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, praised MSU for working to become a center of excellence for wood utilization. Last year, he led in gaining bipartisan approval for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act that authorizes funding for a range of future forest ecosystem studies to be made by MSU and other land-grant institutions.

"Mississippi long has had a vibrant wood products industry," Cochran observed. "As the markets for wood products change, we have to be conscious of the changes that are occurring and meet those new needs and new opportunities. Mississippi State University can be a leader in this because it already has been."

The 50-year-old college was formed in 1954 to train professional foresters in Mississippi. Over the decades, the major academic unit has educated more than 3,000 students in the areas of forestry, forest products, wildlife and fisheries and has contributed to the state's forest products industries such as furniture manufacturing.

In addition to Cochran, other speakers included MSU

MSU speakers: natural resources educators must prepare students

alumnus Carlton N. Owen of Greenville, S.C., founder of the Environmental Edge consulting firm; Richard Porterfield, a former MSU faculty member who now is dean of the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources; Paul Winistorfer of Blacksburg, Va., head of the wood science and forest products department at Virginia Tech University; and Vance Watson, MSU vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine.

Other major forest resource challenges they identified included:

- Population growth and U.S. population shifts to suburban areas that often create conflicts with recreational and industrial natural resource needs;
- Global competition that increases pressures on domestic forest products industries;
- Increased emphasis on ecological value and its impact on quality of life;
- A consumption-oriented society that places increased demands on finite resources in a world where there also are extremes of poverty; and
- Domestic policies that encourage urban sprawl but don't adequately address the economic significance of agriculture and natural resource production and manufacturing.

Watson said the College of Forest Resources "has adapted over the last 50 years to meet the needs of students and the industry and will continue to do so.

"The growth of the college mirrors the growth and influence of the faculty who have been leaders and recognized as such not only in the South but throughout the country," he added. "I have full confidence that as we venture into the next 50 years, the faculty will address the changing needs of the resources and train students to be proactive in protecting, conserving and utilizing our natural resources."

to retain vitality and leadership."

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

FORESTRY

- **Dr. Steve Bullard** retired from Mississippi State University in October. Bullard served the university for 21 years as a professor in forestry, director for the Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management, and interim head of the Department of Forestry and the Department of Forest Products. Bullard spent most of his career at MSU researching furniture industry resources, manufacturing and marketing. An economist, Bullard also researched forestry investments, modeling and optimization of stand- and forest-level decisions and the benefits from public assistance for private nonindustrial forestry landowners.

- **Dr. Doug Richards** recently retired from the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Richards, a native of Canada, served as head of the forestry department for 26 years. In 2003, Richards assumed the position of interim associate director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Richards, a much respected administrator and economist, was a key figure in pursuing and obtaining research grants, such as the Wood Utilization Research grant, which greatly benefited the forestry and forest products industries in Mississippi. Richards is currently serving as a member of the Government Affairs Committee of MFA and was recently named an emeritus professor by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

- **Dr. Scott Roberts** and research associate Alexis Londo received a Schilling Special Teaching Project award.

- **Dr. Robert K. Grala** joined the department in November 2004 as an assistant professor. Grala received his Ph.D. from

Iowa State University and will work in the specialized area of forest management and economics.

- **Dr. Thomas G. Matney** will return from sabbatical leave this semester. While on sabbatical from June through November 2004, Matney worked with Haglof Inc. to develop large- and small-scale inventory software for the international market. When completed, this software will be the only forest inventory system adaptable to any location in the world.

- **Dr. Scott D. Roberts** returned from sabbatical leave in January 2004. While on sabbatical Roberts worked with a highly specialized research unit of the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Experiment Station in Olympia, Wash.

- In October 2004, 14 members of the MSU SAF Student Chapter/Forestry Club attended the Joint 2004 Annual General Meeting and Convention of the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The students participated in the SAF Quiz Bowl and hosted an exhibit.

FOREST PRODUCTS

- **Dr. Terry Sellers Jr.** recently was named an emeritus professor by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

- **Dr. Philip Steele** and research associate Jerome Cooper were awarded two patents for a Moisture and Density Detector and a Through-Log Density Detector.

- **Dr. Mike Barnes** is the 2004 recipient of the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources Alumnus of the Year award.

- **Dr. Mike Barnes** and **Dr. Terry Amburgey** received the American Wood-Preservers' Associations highest award, the Award of Merit. The award was presented at the 100th anniversary meeting of the organization in Vancouver, British Columbia.

- **Dr. Rubin Shmulsky** joined the department as an associate professor. Shmulsky received his master's and doctoral degrees in the department and is returning from the University of Minnesota.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **Randy DeYoung**, a graduate student, received the outstanding paper award at the Southeastern Deer Study Group. This is the third year in a row that an MSU graduate student has received this award. Randy also won the best student presentation at The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting.

- Congratulations to **Kris Goodwin**, adjunct faculty member, for receiving the Conservation Educator Award at the recent Mississippi Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet.

- The Wildlife and Fisheries Department recently merged the aquaculture and fisheries options into the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science option.

- **Dr. Sam Riffle** has joined the department. Riffle's research emphases are wildlife conservation in agricultural landscapes; landscape, road and wetland ecology; and the role of technology in education. Riffle has a joint appointment between the CFR/FWRC and MAFES.

- **Dr. Todd Tietjen** has joined the department. Tietjen's research emphasis is water quality and limnology. He will focus on the growing water issues in the state.



Budget manager Cynthia Hemphill (l) and academic records assistant Amy Hunt are among College of Forest Resources employees honored recently. Both received the 2004 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards for outstanding service. The awards were presented at the annual banquet of the College of Forest Resources. Hemphill also received the outstanding executive, administrative and managerial woman award by the President's Commission on the Status of Women.



Three CFR faculty members have been honored with outstanding achievement awards. Receiving the 2004 awards are forestry professor Andrew W. Ezell for teaching, wildlife and fisheries professor Wes Burger Jr. for research, and forestry extension professor Robert A. Daniels for service. The awards were presented at the annual banquet of the College of Forest Resources.

Hinds attorney joining MSU Foundation staff

The Mississippi State Foundation is expanding its fund-raising efforts in two major academic units with the addition of alumnus Jeffrey J. Little.

Little, a Bolton resident, is the new assistant development director for the colleges of Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine. He joins Keith Gaskin, who has led the colleges' development programs since 1997.

Formal approval of the appointment is expected at a future meeting of the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

"Jeff brings valuable experience to the veterinary medicine and forest resources divisions," said foundation executive director Richard Armstrong. "He will be a great asset to our team as he works with alumni and friends."

A McComb native, Little is a 1995 MSU English graduate who went on to earn a law degree in 1999 from the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. He previously was a senior attorney with the State Tax Commission.

He also has legal experience with two professional law firms in the state, as well as with the towns of Raymond and Edwards.

One of only 27 in the nation, MSU's veterinary college was established by the Legislature in 1974 and admitted its first students in 1977.

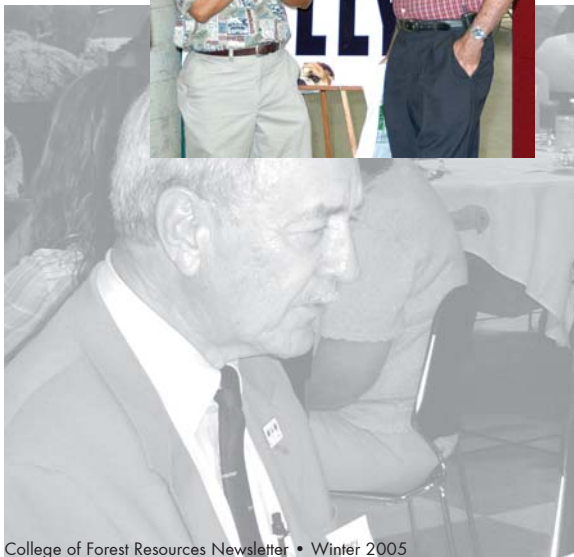
Now celebrating its 50th year, the College of Forest Resources offers state-of-the art undergraduate and graduate programs in forestry, forest products, and wildlife and fisheries management.



Professor Wes Burger Jr. (l-r) of the wildlife and fisheries department received the faculty research award from the Office of Research in ceremonies held this spring. Research associate Janet C. Dewey of the forestry department received the Research Support Staff Award. Maruthi S.B. Bhaskar, a doctoral student in the department of forest products, received the Graduate Student Research Award. Congratulating the winners is Dr. Bob Karr, interim director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Research Awards

ALUMNI REUNION





50th anniversary sponsors:
Molpus Timberlands Management LLC
Anderson-Tully Company
Plum Creek



Class PICTURES

Class of 1955



Robert Boyd, Daniel L. Williams Jr., and Professor James Moak

Class of 1956-1957



George Pace, Tom Harris, Donald Bell, George Paris, and professors Roy Ross, James Moak

Class of 1958



Marion Van Cooley, Harry Tabor, Wendell Graham, Joe Brown, Jack Rhodes, Bryant Myatt, John Lester, Sid Moss

Class of 1959



Charles Green, William Turner Jr., Guy Davis, Larry Brewer, Thomas Toler, Homer Benton, John Hodges, Kline Shepard, Larry Doolittle

Class of 1960-1961



Ross Sherman, George Stough, Ramon Calahan, Malcolm Cockerham, Charles Dismukes, Jimmie Tisdale

Class of 1960-1962



Max Billingsley, Richard Sones, Cary Williams, David Lee, Gerald Moore

Class of 1966



Lynn Prine, Lloyd Young, Homer McLemore, Sid Boatler, Earl Alford, Henry Gibson

Class PICTURES

Class of 1967-1969



Harold Anderson, Dene Enlow, Don Thompson

Class of 1975-1976



Emily Devine Rust, Dearn Brooks, Catalino Blanche, David Barge, Chuck Bergin

Class of 1977-1978



Mike Daniels, Debbie Gaddis, Jim Dykes, Steve Butler, Charles Donald Jr., Ronnie Myers, Steve Smith, Mike Mikel, Everard Baker, Winston Savelle

Class of 1979-1980



Sam Hobart, Brian Reed, Jim Shepard, Curtis "Skip" McCollough

Class of 1980-1985



Jimmy Mordica, Kimmie Miller Van Wyck, Ruth Cook, Susan Gorley Dicke, Henry Sansing, Stephen Dicke

Class of 1995-2000



James Shannon, Jason Watson, Robert Boyd Jr., Chad Smith

Class of 2000-present



Marc Measells, Matthew Ruff, Justin Dewberry

Two MSU 'byproduct' efforts seek new fuel source, chemicals

Two complementary Mississippi State research efforts are seeking to capitalize on the energy potential of plant materials called biomass.

A new university project seeks to develop wood preservative systems and fuel from the small-diameter pine trees that traditionally are thinned from larger pine stands.

A Forest and Wildlife Research Center team, along with campus colleagues in forest products, chemical engineering and chemistry, recently received a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. departments of Energy and Agriculture for the project. One of only 22 awarded from a field of 400 applicants, the grant is part of the federal Biomass Research and Development Initiative.

Established to encourage the development of new products from the agricultural and agroforestry sectors, the initiative is intended to "promote the nation's biomass resources, enhance energy security, provide a cleaner environment, and help revitalize America's rural economy," said Energy Department Secretary Spencer Abraham in announcing the initiative.

Lead project investigator Philip H. Steele, an MSU forest products professor, said the project is designed to "establish a novel, technologically advanced approach to developing an environmentally benign wood preservative system with fuel as a by-product."

"BioOil" is to be the product's name, Steele

added.

New government restrictions on the use of chromated copper arsenate have created growing demands for a cost-effective, environmentally safe, organic wood preservative suitable for residential applications.

"A BioOil wood preservative would not only fill this critical need but has the potential to boost the forest products industry, which currently has annual sales of preservative treated wood in excess of \$4 billion," Steele said.

"The production of wood preservatives or BioOil likely would consume about 5 million tons of wood per year with thinnings from Southern pine stands," he predicted. "This will provide a critical market to landowners with small-diameter trees."

MSU research scientists also have concluded that both the BioOil preservative and fuel would diversify the range of products produced from plentiful timber resources, as well as meeting other national needs-including reducing dependency on foreign fuels and improving the nation's environmental health.

To consolidate research and development efforts, Mississippi State also has joined the newly created Southern Alliance for the Utilization of Biomass Resources, headquartered at the University of Alabama. Liam Leightley, MSU forest products department head, chairs the collaborative effort.

"Southern rural economies have suffered

from the closure and slowed production rates of pulp mills and the decrease in value of farm crops," Leightley said. "In the Southeast, we have renewable and expandable sources of energy and chemical feedstocks in the 214 million acres of forestland and the 128 million acres of farmland."

Bringing together academic institutions from Texas to Virginia, the alliance also includes government organizations, private industries, landowners, and others who will cooperate to capitalize on farm and forest biomass resources.

"By working with nationally recognized researchers at Southeastern universities, the alliance will be able to quickly and efficiently capitalize on biomass conversion projects," Leightley said.

As a first order of business, the alliance will work closely with state and federal officials on policy development related to the biomass industry. Future plans include educational seminars on the benefits of bio-based energy and chemicals, and assistance in the implementation of new technology and research products.

"Mississippi State is quickly assuming a leadership role in an area that has tremendous economic potential for the South," Leightley said.

For more on BioOil, telephone Steele at (662) 325-8083; for the Southern Alliance for the Utilization of Biomass Resources, contact Leightley at 325-4444.

MSU survey: most regional forest landowners 'underserved'

A new Mississippi State study finds that nearly 75 percent of Mid-South forest landowners fail to take advantage of available educational and professional resources.

A recent survey by the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center focused on individuals owning 10 or more acres of forestland in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. MSU researchers identified as "underserved" all those whose responses indicated they do not consult with a professional forester, use forestry-related educational programs or were not members of a forestry-related organization.

The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.

"The high percentage of underserved forest landowners indicates a need for more comprehensive outreach efforts," said project director Stephen C. Grado. Without such information, many of the region's 4.9 million non-industrial private forest landowners will not realize the full benefits of their forestland, the forestry professor added.

"Landowners with small- to mid-sized tracts in particular often lack knowledge and training,

making their lands less productive and more often neglected," Grado said. Improved outreach efforts by academic institutions, professional organizations and others can ultimately result in improved forestry practices and enhanced economic viability of the lands, he said.

According to the study:

—Only 37 percent of landowners say they previously have consulted with a professional forester;

—60 percent said they have not previously received forestry information; and

MSU research: dwindling waste rice will affect waterfowl

Rice lands, once thought to be a plentiful feast for ducks in the Mississippi Delta region, may not provide the banquet predicted.

A recent four-year study by Mississippi State's Forest and Wildlife Research Center indicates the carrying capacity of rice lands for wintering waterfowl actually is about 80 percent less than that estimated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other conservation partners. Carrying capacity is an index of feeding habitat quality.

University researchers conducted their investigation in what is known as the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri. The findings of wildlife scientists Rick Kaminski and Joshua Stafford suggest that an apparent decrease in abundant waste rice might be one factor influencing the number of ducks wintering in the region.

"Though research showed an abundance of waste rice soon after harvest in the early fall, the amount dipped 71 percent by early winter, leaving the rice fields lean pickings for hungry waterfowl," Kaminski explained.

Stafford undertook the research in partial fulfillment of his doctoral degree. In addition to estimating rice availability, he also sought to quantify causes for the loss of waste rice during fall.

"We found that 58 percent of waste rice that fell to the ground after harvest in August through September apparently decomposed," Stafford said. "Insects, birds or small mammals ate about 14 percent of it, while 8 percent sprouted and grew during fall before frosts occurred."

Given these factors, MSU graduate students Houston Havens of West and Jennifer Kross of Boynton Beach, Fla., set out to discover how

to reverse the downward trend and conserve the waste rice. In continuing research under Kaminski's guidance, they are evaluating procedures on rice stubble such as disking, rolling, burning, and mowing, as well as no treatment at all, to determine which conserves the most rice.

"Although we are beginning to gain insights into beneficial post-harvest management practices, our experiments must be repeated this fall in the region before we can offer recommendations," Kaminski said.

Meanwhile, Kaminski and Stafford are encouraging rice producers and landowners to allow natural grasses and sedges to grow on fallow agricultural fields and lowlands—a strategy called moist-soil management—and to identify areas on their farms that can be dedicated to these food-rich habitats for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.

Kaminski said the carrying capacity of moist-soil habitat is six times that of harvested rice fields, on average, based on recent research conducted throughout the region by Ed Penny, a former MSU graduate student now working for Ducks Unlimited in California.

"Utilizing the land in such a manner could be a profitable proposition," Kaminski said. "These habitats may be more valuable as wildlife leases than as croplands."

For more information, telephone Kaminski at (662) 325-2623.

Aure Stories

—86 percent have never attended a forestry-related educational program.

Despite this self-admitted lack of contact with professionals, respondents nevertheless indicated an interest in educational programs focusing on wildlife management, insects and diseases, marketing, harvesting, and best management practices on their forestland.

"Many of those surveyed were unfamiliar with the federal and state government assistance," said project co-investigator Joshua Idassi.

An MSU graduate now serving as an

extension assistant professor of forestry at Tennessee State University, Idassi said, "Some three-quarters of the respondents were not familiar with cost-share programs and 83 percent were not aware of government tax incentives for forest landowners.

"In fact," he observed, "only 18 percent had made use of available tax incentives."

The researchers said the study gives forestry educators and organizations "a blueprint" of needs among an important constituency. Because small landowners often value their land more for amenity values, both agreed that

the need for active forest management often is understated.

"Regardless of tract size or ownership objectives, most landowners can benefit from even minor management improvement," Grado said. "If the forestry community pursues educational programs and activities to reach underserved landowners, they can become more knowledgeable about ways to realize the full range of benefits from owning forestland."

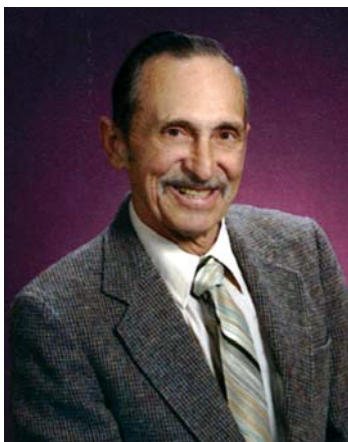
For more information about the study, contact Grado at (662) 325-2792.

Forest Resources ALUMNI EVENTS

In Memory of William Franklin 'Frank' Miller, Jr.

William Franklin "Frank" Miller Jr. died Nov. 5, 2004.

He was born May 2, 1932, the first son of W. Frank and



Elizabeth Miller, in New Freedom, Pa. He lettered in football at Penn State, where he graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in forestry. He received his master's degree from Duke University the following year. He accepted a position at then Mississippi State College, Miss., in 1959 and taught forestry, silviculture and photogrammetry until his retirement in 1995.

At MSU, he established the men's soccer club, the Conquistadors. Under his leadership, the team dominated the Southeastern Conference clubs they played every year until his retirement from coaching.

One of the pioneers in the field of photogrammetry, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Mississippi Remote Sensing Center and was its first director. Teaming with NASA and the National Geographic Society, he helped establish methods to interpolate satellite photos, ground truth observations and computer data to direct archeologists to the probable ground sites of ancient civilization ruins.

He was an avid outdoorsman and helped to establish and championed the cause of the John W. Starr Memorial Forest.

He was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he served in several capacities.

Weyerhaeuser gift to support distance learning at MSU

A gift from the Weyerhaeuser Co. Foundation is helping Mississippi State's Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management deliver educational programs to the state's furniture manufacturers.

A \$25,000 grant will provide distance-learning equipment and technologies for the university's Franklin Center that officially opened in January.

Providing workforce education and training that will maintain the state's international competitiveness is the institute's primary focus, said director Steve Bullard.

"Manufacturing industries, including furniture companies and their suppliers, have been impacted in recent years by imports," Bullard said. "Primarily, this involves countries where wages are much lower and production costs are less because of fewer regulations in areas such as the environment and working conditions."

Created in 2001, the furniture institute is a multi-disciplinary effort involving Mississippi State's colleges of Business and Industry, Forest Resources, Engineering, and Architecture, Art and Design, along with the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and Extension Service. The institute builds on a 17-year history of wood-product research, technical assistance and continuing education the university has pro-

vided to the state and region.

"We have the largest furniture research program in North America," said Bob L. Karr, dean of the College of Forest Resources, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. "We are grateful for all of the financial support provided by the Weyerhaeuser Co. and Foundation over the years."

Previous partnerships between the university and Weyerhaeuser have included forest management, wildlife research and the development of ChoiceFrame, a joint-by-joint furniture frame strength tool.

"It's been a good relationship and partnership between MSU and Weyerhaeuser over the years," said Ben Jones, manager for Weyerhaeuser's Mississippi-Alabama timberlands region. "Weyerhaeuser is proud to be able to provide these funds to further support furniture education in Mississippi."

Since 1948, the Weyerhaeuser Foundation has directed more than \$162 million to the communities where Weyerhaeuser employees live and work. Nationwide, the foundation's annual philanthropic budget totals \$10 million.

For further information, contact Jeff Little of MSU at 662-325-8151 or e-mail jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.

Collegiate lumberjacks compete in MSU-hosted event in March

An estimated 300 student lumberjacks from 14 universities gathered near the Mississippi State campus in the spring to test their skills in a variety of logging events, including one qualifying competition that could lead to a national collegiate championship.

The 47th Association of Southern Forestry Clubs' Conclave at MSU's John W. Starr Memorial Forest March 25-27 featured the Stihl Timbersports Collegiate Invitational Qualifier from 1-5 p.m. on opening day.

The winner in three cutting and chopping events—underhand chop, stock saw and single buck—advanced along with three other winners of collegiate logging sports conclaves across the country to a national championship event in Augusta, N.J. The other conclaves were held at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., Penn College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa., and Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

In addition to MSU, other universities represented at the Starkville event included Alabama A&M, Arkansas-Monticello, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana Tech, North Carolina State, Oklahoma State, Stephen F. Austin State, Tennessee, Texas A&M, and Virginia Tech.

In order to maintain their amateur status, collegiate finalists do not compete against professionals in the Stihl Timbersports Series pro competition. They vie, however, in the three pro-level events on the same stage, using the same wood and equipment.

The New Jersey competition and another pro event in Lima, Ohio, held Aug. 25-28, featured 28 professionals, and was taped for broadcast on ESPN and ESPN2. Tape of the collegiate events also may be utilized in the national broadcasts.

"We're very excited about the conclaves," said Roger Phelps, promotional communication manager for Stihl Inc. "Whatever we can do to promote the sport is great. Timbersports is in its 19th year."

MSU's student chapter of the Society of American Foresters hosted the conclave at the Biennial Midsouth Forestry Equipment Show site near the Starr Memorial Forest entrance, located about seven miles south of Starkville on Highway 25.

Conclave events featured competition in a variety of events that included knife throwing, axe throwing, chain throwing, log rolling, log birling, archery, pole felling, pole climbing, log chopping, and bow and crosscut sawing. First, second- and third-place finishers were recognized.

"While it is unlikely that employers are interested in how quickly prospective employees can fell or climb a tree, the competition is still an integral part of the forestry college experience," said Keith Belli, associate dean of MSU's College of Forest Resources, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Beyond the physical events, however,



MSU faculty noted students also will compete in academic and technical activities such as wildlife identification, timber estimation and dendrology, the scientific study of trees.

"The physical events are fun for students and spectators; however, the technical events are competitions in which the students' forestry education is best displayed," said Donald Grebner, an associate professor of forestry and faculty adviser to MSU's SAF chapter. "Success in the technical areas is also worth more competition points than the physical events."

MSU student forestry group sweeps national competition

For the sixth year, Mississippi State's student chapter of the Society of American Foresters is ranked among the top groups in the nation.

The 41-member university organization recently earned a first place as the 2003-04 overall outstanding student chapter, as well as placing first in the 2003-04 SAF Student Chapter Web site competition.

The group earlier captured overall chapter first-place honors in 1996-97 and 2000-01, second place in 1998-99 and 2001-02 and third place in 2002-03. It earned a first-place for Web design in 2002-03.

Founded in 1900, the SAF, based in Bethesda, Md., is the world's largest professional organization for foresters, with more than 18,000 members worldwide. It offers two annual competition categories for student members.

Chapters receiving overall honors are recognized for service to their schools and communities, involvement with other natural resource organizations, and chapter management. Pennsylvania State and Humboldt State universities finished in second and third place, respectively. Humboldt is a California institution.

Web site judging criteria include design, content and site management. Second- and third-place honors went to Penn State and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

MSU's winning site may be viewed at www.cfr.msstate.edu/studentorgs/saf.

All winners were recognized Oct. 4 during the Joint Canadian Institute of Forestry/SAF annual convention, this year in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

All forestry majors, the 2004-05 chapter officers include president Dan Prevost of Raymond, vice president Miles Henderson of Fayette, Ala., secretary Angela DeLaughter of Brookhaven, and treasurer Wayne Duke of Hamilton. Associate professor Donald Grebner is chapter adviser.



Spring 2004 graduates

A special reception and ceremony honoring spring 2004 graduates and their families was held in May. The dean presented the students with a certificate of completion as they marched in, and a class photo was taken for the students.

Alumni Updates

Robert S. Boyd (forestry '55) is slowing down but still manages some consulting business. He and wife Jan live in Tallahassee, Fla.

Donald S. Bell (forestry '56) is the council representative for the Society of American Foresters District XI.

Marion V. Cooley (forestry '58) is retired and has three children and eight grandchildren. He resides in Brookhaven and enjoys traveling and hunting in his spare time.

Robert McReynolds (forestry '58) is retired and enjoys wood-working and church work. He lives in Marianna, Fla.

Bryant Myatt (forestry '58) is retired and is the vice chair of the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.

Guy W. Davis (forestry '59) is retired and living in Lumberton. He has one grandson and recently married Jean Vincent.

Ross A. Sherman (forestry '61) is retired and doing volunteer trail work on the Appalachian Trail. He is living in Wiggins.

Richard Mitchell Sones (forestry '61) is retired after 37 years with Weyerhaeuser Co. He and wife Sylvia reside in Columbia.

Charles W. Dismukes (forestry '61) works for his two sons at Vaiden Timber Co. Charles and his wife live in Kilmichael and have four grandchildren. He recently was elected a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters.

Hurston O. Nicholas (forestry '64) has retired after 30-plus years with the U.S. Forest Service. He and wife Mary Ann reside in Acworth, Ga.

Wilbert Dahlem (forestry '65) retired from Champion International Corp. He currently is partnering with his son Blake (forestry '98) in a forestry consulting company. Dahlem has four grandchildren and lives in Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

Earl Alford (forestry '66) is the Amite County Forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Alford and wife Pauline live in Liberty where he is working on flora in the Ethel Vance Natural Area.

Harold Anderson (forestry '69) is the external information and education officer for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He also is the project learning tree coordinator for Mississippi.

Danny R. Knight (forestry '71) is the chief procurement forester for Kitchens Brothers Manufacturing, Co. Knight and wife Marianna live in Brookhaven and have two grown children.

James A. Bailey (forestry '72) is the Mississippi/Alabama project management for Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Development Co.

Charles W. Morgan, Sr. (forestry '73) is the area manager for International Paper.

James "Mickey" Easley (forestry '74) is into his 20th year as forest and wildlife manager for Wynecreek Plantation near Union Springs, Ala. Easley has three grandchildren and spends his spare time grabbling for catfish.

Randy Pope (forestry '74) owns Dixieland Forest Products LLC. He enjoys land and timber procurement and development hunting lodges and lakes. His wife Angie is teaching kindergarten in Quitman.

Thomas M. Carr (forestry '74) is a partner of Crossroads Sod Farm LLC, which consists of 250 acres. Carr lives in Belvidere, Tenn.

Charles Dearl Brooks (forestry '76) and wife Annette are living in Collinsville. Brooks is president of Southern Natural Resources Inc.

Carl Mason (forestry '76) has taken early retirement as a USDA, NRCS District Conservationist.

Thomas W. Middleton (forestry '79) is a self-employed consultant. He and wife Pam live in Natchez and have two sons, Alex and Avery.

Kathleen Flanigan Payment (forestry '79) is living in Huntsville, Ala., and has three children in college.

Brian Reed (forestry '80) is a location manager at Georgia Pacific. He and wife Leslie live in Columbus and have a 2-year-old daughter, Mary Katherine.

Sally Cook (forestry '80) is the construction manager for Weyerhaeuser Co.

Vernon Eugene Cooper (forestry '83) works for the Mississippi Forestry Commission as a county forester. He and wife Karen live in Lucedale.

Mary Beth Nickolich (forestry '83) is working for the Weyerhaeuser Co. She has two stepdaughters and lives in Fairmont, W. Va.

Daney G. Jackson (forestry '84) is the director of Penn State Cooperative Extension. He and wife Kim live in State College, Pa.

Greg Swede (forestry '85) and wife Laurice Claire are living in Texarkana, Texas. He is the manager of fiber supply for International Paper.

David Moody (forestry '85) is managing Woodland Services, a real estate/forestry consulting business. Moddy and wife Nancy live in Philadelphia with their twins, Jake and Hannah, who are in the fifth grade.

Elizabeth Rooks Barber (forestry '87) is a certified wildlife biologist and serves as vice president and partner of Barber and Mann Inc. She and husband Gerald have two children and two grandchildren.

J.J. McCool (forestry '90) is the owner of Wildlife Solutions Inc, a consulting firm specializing in wildlife and forest management along with environmental surveys. He and wife Angela have two children: Coby is 4 years old and Camille is 2.

Rusty Booker (forestry '91) is a fiber supply manager for a Vicksburg mill and lives in Redwood.

Scott Payne (forestry '93) is the forestry director for the Natural Resources Department, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Bill Daniels (forestry '93) is an associate professor of aquaculture in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University.

Matthew James Gray (wildlife and fisheries '95) is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Paje B. Owens (forestry '97) is the chief land surveyor and Massachusetts-licensed SIT with Existing Grade Inc. of Cape Cod. Owens lives in Plymouth, Mass.

Yu Takeuchi (forestry '98) is a risk analysis for USDA APHIS.

Braxton Rushing (forestry '99) is working as a industrial sales representative for Harcros Chemicals Inc. in St. Gabriel, La.

Tammy Cushing (forestry '99) and spouse Mark are living in Woodstock, Ga. She is pursuing her doctorate at the University of Georgia.

Blake Addison (forestry '01) is the timber sale administrator for the USDA Forest Service, Bankhead National Forest. He and wife Alison live in Moulton, Ala., and have one daughter, Alanna, who is 6 years old.

Kevin A. Burnette (forestry '02) and

spouse Deidra are living in Sheridan, Ark. He is an area forester for Forest Systems Inc. out of Pine Bluff, Ark.

Kirk J. Ross (wildlife and fisheries '03) is the GIS coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Vicksburg District. He lives in

Senatobia.

Timothy Shane Harrington (forestry '03) is working as a BMP forester for the Texas Forest Service. He lives in Lufkin, Texas.

ALUMNI UPDATES

We want your news!

To be included in the update, complete and return the form to Melissa Montgomery, Box 9680, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9680 or e-mail mmontgomery@cfr.msstate.edu.

As part of the College of Forest Resources newsletter, the alumni updates help keep us all connected. Let us know about you, your careers and family so we can let your friends and classmates keep up with you. Please use the form below to share career changes, recognitions or honors received, family updates, or other news. If you need more space, include a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____ Spouse _____

CFR Degree(s) and Year(s) Received _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____ -) _____ Business Phone (____ -) _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Name of Business _____

Children/Grandchildren _____

Update Information _____



College of Forest Resources

Box 9680

Mississippi State, MS 39762-9680

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mississippi State, Mississippi
Permit No. 81

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, and disability or veteran status.

Forest Resources PUBLICATIONS VIA THE INTERNET

Nonindustrial private forest landowners' forest management activities and expenditures in Mississippi, 1998-2000 data

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/nipf.pdf>

Mississippi's forest land covers 18.6 million acres or 62 percent of the state's total land area. Nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners own nearly 66 percent of Mississippi's timberlands. These landowners play a vital role in the long-term sustainability of the nation's timberlands. The level of forest management investment by these landowners can have a dramatic impact on timber inventory and future harvest levels.

Characterizing mills and distribution systems: Strategies for small lumber mills

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/sawmills.pdf>

This study was conducted to determine current distribution channels utilized by producers of lumber in the United States and to determine what changes have occurred in the distribution channels that might create opportunities for smaller producers.

The Double-D Cell for Assembling Hardware in Upholstered Furniture Production

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/doubled.pdf>

This is the first case study in a series of studies that relate specifically to the development and application of lean manufacturing techniques of furniture and wood component supplying industries. Case study one is an example of how a subassembly process in an upholstered furniture facility was re-configured from a traditional flow line to a "Double-D" manufacturing cell.

Available workdays in Mississippi forests resulting from climate and soil type interactions

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/workdays.pdf>

A computer model used to predict soil moisture was applied to three regions in Mississippi (Northern, Central, and Coastal) and three soil textures (clay, loam, and sand). The model's performance was verified based on data from a previous study on forested lands in Mississippi.

Using infrared-triggered cameras to survey white-tailed deer in Mississippi

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/deer.pdf>

Commercially available infrared-triggered camera units are relatively new on the scene and consist of two basic types—the "active" and the "passive" systems. These units have been used successfully in research projects to survey populations of black bear and whitetailed deer in Mississippi.