

Fall 2006

mississippi state university

# College of Forest Resources

alumni newsletter



# the BIGGEST show in the WOODS







# DEAN'S

## comments

Changes are good, especially at this time of year. When the leaves begin turning color and there is a cool nip in the air, I enjoy reflecting on changes and changing seasons. Since I arrived a little over a year ago, there have been a few changes at the university and in the college. In April our new president Dr. Robert Foglesong began his tenure at the helm. He has brought with him an enthusiasm for student development, especially focusing on leadership and character development for our students. He has an open door for alumni support and many of our forestry, wildlife, fisheries, and forest products leaders have already engaged the president in ways that the College of Forest

Resources family can contribute. Thank you for participating with this change in our leadership.


This year we have been given opportunities to incorporate new programs within Forest and Wildlife Research Center and CFR. In March, the Water Resources Research Institute was moved into FWRC. The water institute provides key leadership for the state in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and many state agencies on issues and projects related to water research and rural development. In July, FWRC added the Industrial Outreach Service. The IOS, once known as the Food and Fiber Center, serves the state in multiple ways related to economic development, working directly with industries on improving and enhancing their profitability and operations. This summer I was asked to serve as leader for the Natural Resources Extension programs for the Mississippi State University Extension Service. This change allows us many opportunities to develop a comprehensive natural resource extension program. In each of these changes, significant opportunities abound. Like Yogi Berra said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." Well, we have not moved to a new road, but these changes will have impact on what we can do in the areas of water resources, industrial outreach, and natural resource extension education. Changes are good.

On the other hand, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." For example, the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show was held this summer and has grown to be one of the biggest in-woods demonstration in the country (see page 4). Also, once again our faculty members have won numerous awards and last year the FWRC set a record for extramurally sponsored projects. The reason these awards are given to our faculty is due to the reputation and trust they have earned over the years. Some things never change!

Another good example is the consistently high achievement of our students. They continue to raise the bar and surpass our expectations. Once again, our student chapter of the Society of American Foresters was selected as the most outstanding chapter in the nation and placed first in Web site design. And, for the first time, the student chapter of the Forest Products Society received an excellent rating. This newsletter highlights the accomplishments of many of our student awards.

Around the bend, we have more changes that may fall into place. We continue to discuss our increasing role in providing leadership for natural resources recreational enterprises, bio-based energy, lumber production, and inventory and monitoring of the state's natural resources. We are also developing plans with the U.S. Forest Service for adding scientists on campus to provide support for bottomland hardwoods and watershed research. In all of these things, changes are within. But, it is through these changes that we can enhance our abilities to accomplish our mission of service, education, and research for wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and forest products to improve our economic competitiveness, protect our environment, and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

I ask for each you to help us during these ever-changing times. Your support for scholarships and internships for our students are especially appreciated. I gratefully thank you and acknowledge your importance to our future.



George M. Hopper  
Dean

# Thompson Hall

## landscaping project

A water garden has been constructed in front of Thompson Hall as part of the new look for the natural resources building.

In addition to the water garden, sidewalks have been installed and seating areas soon will be added.

Plans are to plant native species at this site later this fall and early winter. Dr. Robert F. Brzuszek's landscape architecture class is developing a site plan for the planting of the native species. We hope to have the project completed by the spring semester.



## natural resources

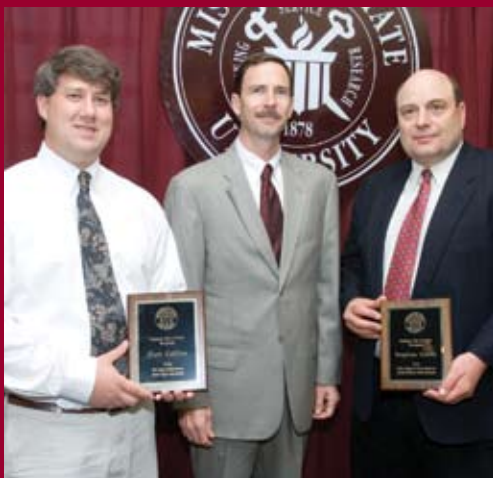
### summer camp

The CFR Alumni Society sponsored two campers from Pass Christian for the Natural Resource Summer Camp in June.

Courtney Beach and Claire Davies are freshmen at Pass Christian High School.

Hosted by the College of Forest Resources and the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the camp offers high school students a hands-on experience in environmental stewardship and management, part of the broad field of natural resources.

## Accolades



Curtis Collins (l) and Stephen C. Grado (r) received the 2006 Research Award from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

Collins is a research associate in the department of forestry. He works for the spatial inventory group. Grado is a professor and economist in the department of forestry specializing in multi-use forest management, recreation, and tourism.

Keith Belli, associate dean and associate director, congratulated the two at the annual awards banquet.





More than 6,000 individuals from at least 20 states and a couple of Canadian provinces attended the 2006 edition of the largest, oldest show in the woods.

The Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show held June 2-3 near Starkville set attendance records for similar venues—both past and present—in the South. The largest segment of show visitors represented loggers and their employees.

Scores of manufacturers and dealers demonstrated equipment and supplies worth an estimated \$26.5 million. Eighteen in-woods exhibits showcased skidders, loaders, trucks, grinders and forestland mulchers in a 40-acre block of forest.

“We were delighted with the turnout and feel like the show turned the corner as a strong, regional event,” said Charles Burkhardt, show manager and MSU school forester.

“I heard many favorable comments from exhibitors regarding the quality of logger participation and the overall quality of the site, timber and ground conditions.”

Now in its 22nd year, the biannual public event is cosponsored by the university’s College of Forest Resources and Montgomery, Ala.-based Hatton-Brown Publishers Inc., in cooperation with the Mississippi Forestry and Mississippi Loggers associations.



Educational on-site sessions for loggers, foresters and landowners were filled to capacity, with more than 2,500 landowners, professional foresters and loggers receiving continuing education credits.

The show, which is located in the John W. Starr Memorial Forest, included almost 200 commercial displays. Blount dealer B&G Equipment, headquartered in Philadelphia, hosted Blount's Prentice Log Loader Championship, which drew 85 contestants. It was the competition's first appearance at the show. The top three finishers will compete in Prentice's first Grand National Championship in Green Bay, Wis.

A log skidder competition drew 88 individuals, 319 took part in several guessing contests, and 143 children entered the Southern Loggin' Times coloring contest.

"I think the show went real well," said Mark Lowe, John Deere South Central district sales manager. "My indication for that is how many deals

we are working on at the moment. We are getting about four times the normal equipment inquiries compared to other dealers in the South Central area."

The Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show is a true community-backed, family-friendly event with several local businesses supplying needed services, equipment and sponsorships of various family activities, contests, and competitions.

One logger described the show as his opportunity to compare several suppliers at one time and talk with some of the technical experts. He especially liked talking one-on-one with some of the engineers, who know the machines better than anyone.

"We are looking forward to making improvements and having a bigger and better show in 2008," Burkhardt added.

# Thanks to all the volunteers



*Top row (left to right): show organizers Charles Burkhardt and D.K. Knight; show secretary Misty Booth; show emergency medical technicians Ken Wilborn and Roosevelt Harris; Lance Stewart offered assistance at the registration table.*

*Bottom row (left to right): Cade Booth and Paul Jeffreys assist with traffic; Laura Grace speaks with a logger; Lovey Neal driving spectators to the live demonstration area; Marc Measells demonstrates the stream table.*

# FORESTRY

## news



*The eight-week summer field program had 28 students enrolled, which included eight transfer students. Eight Alabama A&M students participated in a few days of summer camp and visited the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show.*

### **New MSU herbarium reflects knowledge, efforts of its creator**

Alexis Londo is a mother of two, doctoral-degree candidate and research associate at Mississippi State University. But, wait, there's more—much more.

In 2003, Londo was asked to teach dendrology—the identification of trees—in the College of Forest Resources after the course instructor went on an academic sabbatical. In addition to taking quickly to her new classroom duties, the Bellaire, Texas, native began work on a much-needed herbarium for Thompson Hall.

"I started the herbarium so students would have tangible examples to compare and contrast," explained the doctoral student in forest biometrics. "While there is another herbarium on campus, it is used primarily by faculty researchers."

While it provides assistance particularly for those in forestry and wildlife and fisheries, the easily accessible resource steadily is evolving into a valuable teaching and research tool for all college majors.

Thanks to Londo's tireless efforts, the collection now contains seeds, cones and information sheets on 262 species from Mississippi and other parts of the United States. Each sheet identifies the species of tree, locations where it occurs and a leaf sample.

"Despite all we have, the herbarium remains a work-in-process," observed Londo, who earlier received bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University.

She said wildlife and fisheries associate professor Jeanne Jones currently is adding herbaceous species to the collection. With the assistance of forest products professor Mike Barnes, these will be complemented by samples illustrating the macro and micro characteristics of various woods, she added.

Londo's work to develop the herbarium is in addition to her staff duties with the department of forestry's measurements and spatial technologies working group.

## MSU scientists discover key flowering gene in trees

Mississippi State University researchers are announcing their identification of the gene that controls the first-time and annual flowering of trees.

The breakthrough in pinpointing what is known as "FT2" could have significant environmental and economic implications.

Funded through the National Science Foundation and Mississippi State's Life Sciences and Biotechnology Institute, the work was conducted by collaborating scientists in the university's departments of forestry and biochemistry and molecular biology. Their investigation focused on unknown genetic, environmental and physiological factors that control the development process of trees.

"Many trees do not normally produce flowers at early ages, which can be as long as seven to 20 years," said assistant professor Cetin Yuceer of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"Agricultural crops have been domesticated for thousands of years, because they can produce flowers after several months from seed sowing," he explained. "Trees in modern forestlands are almost completely undomesticated, which is attributable to the lengthy period between seed germination and the first reproductive bud formation."

Yuceer said he and his colleagues found the FT2 gene transcript to be rare during the juvenile stage of a tree's development, but more prevalent as the plant becomes older.

"When we inserted FT2 into juvenile poplar trees, the increased transcript level caused them to begin producing flowers within several months instead of years," Yuceer said. "Of course, this saves a tremendous amount of time to get the first seeds and could revolutionize tree domestication."

The MSU findings could increase economic opportunities by accelerating tree breeding practices for producing not only stronger and faster-growing trees that are resistant to wind, disease and insects, but also desirable tree chemicals—among them cellulose, a major component of the gasoline-substitute ethanol, he observed.

## Accolades



Bob Daniels



Stephen Dicke



Andy Londo



Debbie Gaddis



Paul Jeffreys



Marcus Measells



Juanita Mobley

*Bob Daniels, extension forestry professor, retired after 26 years of service to the university. We wish Daniels the best in his future endeavors.*

*Bob Daniels, Stephen Dicke, and Andy Londo were recognized by the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Program for excellence in extension publications. Dicke's publication, Preserving trees in construction sites, received a high distinction. Londo and Dicke also were recognized for the publication, Super pines are really super. Daniels was recognized for Forests of Fun 4-H Forestry curriculum and the supporting Web site.*

*Debbie Gaddis, associate extension professor was named Extension Forester of the Year by the Forest Landowner Association. Gaddis also recently was honored by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents by receiving the association's Achievement Award.*

*Paul Jeffreys was promoted to research associate II.*

*Marcus Measells was promoted to research associate II.*

*Juanita Mobley was promoted to research associate III.*



# FOREST PRODUCTS

## news



### TimTek plant will offer new timber market, jobs

A process conceived in Australia and refined at Mississippi State University to turn small-diameter trees into high-strength engineered lumber may soon bring new jobs to Mississippi.

Shuqualak Lumber Company has signed a license agreement to build a TimTek engineered wood products plant in Meridian. The Mississippi Legislature recently approved a \$10 million appropriation to assist Lauderdale County with the purchase of the proposed site and the development of infrastructure necessary for the plant.

It is predicted the plant will provide 140 jobs directly and another 168 jobs indirectly in Lauderdale County and surrounding areas, said Anderson Thomas, vice president of Shuqualak Lumber Company.

The pilot plant operation began on the MSU campus in 2003 and has been successful in producing several types and sizes of beams.

The TimTek wood product recently passed

the long beam or span portion of the code approval process with APA-The Engineered Wood Association in Tacoma, Wash. When all code tests are completed, the code approvals will allow the TimTek product to carry a grade stamp for acceptance in the marketplace.

The pilot plant has also experimented with agricultural fibers, including cornstalks and kenaf to determine if other types of media can be made into marketable products using the TimTek process for raw material preparation. Kenaf is a woody plant from Asia that is related to both cotton and okra.

"The kenaf worked well, but we are still working with the cornstalks," Seale said. "The cornstalks have a waxy surface that traditional resins cannot penetrate."

Agricultural fibers would likely be processed using a combination of traditional pressing technologies combined with new raw material preparation techniques.



## Research finds promising use for sweetgum lumber

Sweetgum trees are a common sight in forests across the South, but their usefulness in the lumber industry has been limited.

"The sweetgum tree is a species that is underused," said Rubin Shmulsky, forest products associate professor. "Sweetgum lumber is prone to warp and the wood color and grain are erratic, which further limits its use for cabinetry and flooring."

In the past, sweetgum was heavily used for upholstered furniture frames, but the development and acceptance of composite material for frames has significantly reduced the market for sweetgum lumber.

However, collaboration between MSU scientists and an Arkansas-based forest products company has found a promising new market for sweetgum.

"In 2005, MSU began a project with Anthony Hardwood Composites Inc., to explore the possibility of making a high-value composite from sweetgum lumber," Shmulsky said. "The primary goals of the research were to assess strength properties, technical feasibility and lumber yield."

The MSU scientists set up special equipment to manufacture composite beams from sweetgum lumber supplied by Anthony Hardwood Composites. The rough lumber was sorted,

planed, chopped and glued into 6-by-12-inch-deep laminated sweetgum beams. The beams were then put through a series of rigorous tests to determine their bending strength.

"Results showed that the 6-inch-deep laminated sweetgum beam has a bending strength equivalent to that of a 12-inch-deep-solid oak beam, yet uses about half the material, weighs less than half as much and incorporates a lower value raw material," Shmulsky said.

The success of the project has allowed Anthony Hardwood Composites to design, build and begin operating a commercial factory to make industrial matting that will eventually employ 100 individuals.

"For production, a low-value and underused species is incorporated, reducing the need to harvest large oak trees to make 12-inch-deep oak mats, the traditional source of industrial matting," said John Fiutak, general manager of Anthony Hardwood Composites. "The product is targeted for use in remote and environmentally sensitive areas."

The individual laminated beams are assembled into industrial mats.

"The mats are used as ground flotation material at road, bridge, pipeline, oil rig or other types of construction sites," Fiutak said.

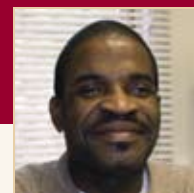
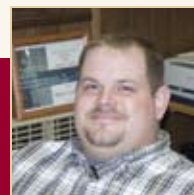
## Accolades

*H. Michael Barnes is a new Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science.*

*Brian Mitchell was promoted to research associate II.*

*Deborah Reginelli retired after 25 years of service. She was the forest products budget coordinator. We wish Reginelli well in her future endeavors. Sandy Fason has been hired as an accountant in the department.*

*Philip Steele and Jerome Cooper received a patent in June 2006 for the Moisture and Density Detector.*



# WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

## news



### MSU scientists hunting statistics about state hunters

An analysis of 25 years of a Mississippi hunters' survey reveals both a decline in the number of licensed hunters and a noticeable shift in species sought.

Mississippi licensed big-game hunters have decreased from 211,063 in 1980 to 180,765 in 2005, or 14 percent. Small-game hunters have decreased from 255,932 to 185,478, or 27 percent during the same period.

Conducted since 1980, the study is the state's primary means of collecting information on the number of individuals who hunt for various game species, how much time they spend in the field and how many animals they harvest. Some 10,000 resident and non-resident hunters receive the survey.

"In the early 1980s, hunters were opportunistic and hunted a variety of game including quail, squirrel, rabbit, and deer," said wildlife and fisheries assistant professor Kevin Hunt.

Hunt said the 2006 survey indicated some of the decreased interest in hunting is due to

changing land-use practices that affect availability. He also cited modern demands on leisure time and rising fuel and equipment costs as factors forcing some hunters to curtail their outdoor activities and specialize in only one or two species.

"When given the choice, about 80 percent of Mississippi hunters choose the white-tailed deer over all other species," he observed.

Because of hunters' continuing preference for the deer, university researchers traditionally devote considerable attention to Mississippi deer hunting. Recent studies include hunters' opinions toward deer management on state wildlife management areas; deer management assistance program cooperators' attitudes toward program components; and economic impacts of white-tailed hunting on the state economy.

"The economic impacts of white-tailed deer hunting in 2006 dollars indicated total sales impact of \$978 million, supporting some 33,000 jobs based on expenditure profiles from the 2001-02 hunter survey," Hunt said.



## MSU professor authors tales of adventures in the great outdoors

A collection of short stories and conservational essays by a veteran Mississippi State fisheries biologist and nationally recognized conservationist now is on bookshelves.

"Tracks" reflects on the 20-year professional career—spent largely outdoors—of professor Donald C. Jackson. The 279-page collection is published by University Press of Mississippi.

Jackson is a teacher and researcher in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, a part of the College of Forest Resources.

"'Tracks' is a pilgrimage through the wild, beautiful, and lonely places around us," Jackson said. "Its purpose is to invite readers to share the trail and discover connections to different vistas not only in the South, but also in distant lands and on exotic waters."

"I've attempted to bring into focus the natural thrill of participating fully as part of the chain of life in wild places," added the avid hunter, fisherman and trapper.

Jackson said proceeds from books will be used to support the fisheries program in MSU's department of wildlife and fisheries.

Earlier this year, he was elected second vice president of the American Fisheries Society and will become its president in 2009. He also currently serves as president of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation and chair of the American Fisheries Hurricane Relief Task Force.

An Arkansas native, Jackson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate from Auburn University.

To localize the economic impact of recreational boat fishing, MSU researchers recently began a social and economic study of the Sardis Upper Lake Reservoir. To complete the angler survey, technicians are being stationed at various reservoir boat ramps for a total of 120 days between now and February 2007.

## Accolades



Donald Jackson



Katherine Jacobs



Jeanne Jones



Rick Kaminski



Jonathan Peeples



Sam Riffell



Jim Steeby



Ben West

*Donald Jackson was elected second vice president of the American Fisheries Society and will take the top spot in 2009.*

*Katherine Jacobs was the national winner for the Natural Resource Enterprises Web site in the Home Page category of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Awards for 2006. Jacobs was also promoted to extension associate II.*

*Jeanne Jones was named Wildlife Conservationist of the Year by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.*

*Rick Kaminski received the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award.*

*Jonathan Peeples was promoted to extension associate II.*

*Sam Riffell received funding to initiate a learning community which will connect the CFR Conservation in Ag Landscapes course with Public Problems in Policy course from the Ag Econ Department.*

*Jim Steeby was promoted to associate extension professor.*

*Ben West was promoted to associate extension professor.*

# COLLEGE

## news



*The Mississippi Forestry Association's MSU Forestry Legislative Tour was held during the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show. First row, left to right: Stephen Grado, Jim Shepard, David Moody, David Barge, Charles Dismukes, Representative Bobby B. Howell, Representative Pat Montgomery, Representative David Gibbs, Representative Gary Staples, Representative Bobby Shows, Representative Preston Sullivan, George Hopper; second row: Jared Morris, Tom Hughes, Larry Brewer, Representative Dannie Reed, Senator Gloria Williamson, Bruce Alt, John Rounsaville, Lloyd Young, Gerald Moore.*

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### Office of Academic Affairs



Keith Belli and  
Rachel Singleton



Patsy Foster and  
Jennifer Hood

Student support services has grown in the CFR into the Office of Academic Affairs, under the direction of Associate Dean Keith Belli. Rachel Singleton is the coordinator of academic affairs. Jennifer Hood has joined the office as an administrative assistant. Patsy Foster is administrative assistant to the associate dean.

The Office of Academic Affairs has begun a new professional experience program. This program will allow CFR students the opportunity to gain professional related job experience during time spent out of the normal academic setting. The program is expected to increase the competency of CFR students in critical thinking, problem solving, and professional development. If your company is interested in participating in the professional experience program, please contact Rachel Singleton at 662.325.9376 or by e-mail at [rsingleton@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:rsingleton@cfr.msstate.edu).





A retirement reception was held for Dr. Charles Lee in Tully Atrium on April 12. Lee, the 17th president of Mississippi State, also served as the CFR dean 1978-1983. Gifts presented to Lee included a hand-crafted walnut rocking chair, an original Jeanne Jones print, a hand-crafted log truck with logs from the John W. Starr Memorial Forest, and a collage of buildings. Dr. Lee sent the following message to Dean Hopper...

Now that we are almost through with our unpacking, Pat and I want you and your colleagues to know that your generous gifts occupy places of honor, and in the case of the beautiful walnut rocker, a place where it can be used. The log truck with material from John Starr reminds us that our first formal task at MSU was the dedication of the forest to John, whom I had the pleasure of knowing. The collage reminds us of the scope of the college and its enormous potential. Please express our gratitude to all!



### **In Memory of James Thomas Peterson July 19, 1962 – June 12, 2006**

Tommy Peterson was employed in June of 1995 by the College of Forest Resources as a forestry technician on the John W. Starr Memorial Forest. In his capacity as a technician in the forest, Peterson was actively involved in the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show.

In addition to his duties with the show, Peterson served the university, and specifically the John W. Starr Memorial Forest, as a forest technician marking timber sales, managing hunting, constructing roads, and maintaining equipment used on the forest. He was loved and respected by all his fellow employees on the forest and within the College of Forest Resources. He succumbed to his second round of cancer at the age of 43 years on June 12 right after the 2006 Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show.

Peterson held a B.S. degree in agriculture from Mississippi State University.

He is survived by his mother, Katherine Dawkins McHann of Starkville; his wife, Rebecca Oswalt Peterson of Sturgis; his two sons, Justin Peterson and Tim Peterson; and his two daughters, Brittany Peterson and Jessica Peterson; all of Sturgis.



The facilities and grounds maintenance crew began a renovation on the porch and roof at the Dorman Lake facility. Two new five-ton air-conditioning systems have been purchased by alumni and will soon be installed. Plans are to renovate the wiring in this facility, which is 1940 vintage. If you would like to donate to the Dorman Lake Cabin renovation project, please send a check to the CFR Alumni Society, Box 9680, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

# DEVELOPMENT

## news

### MSU announces waterfowl and wetland conservation scholarships

A Georgia-based company is doing much more than building upscale residences these days.

Scenic Homes, a family owned business, also is working to further waterfowl and wetland conservation through a \$424,000 scholarship endowment recently established at Mississippi State.

The owner and partners of the construction firm—which also has offices in Mississippi, Louisiana, and North and South Carolina—have established the Scenic Homes “Dr. Richard M. Kaminski” Scholarship in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation at the university.

The academic award will provide qualified students with \$8,000 annually for tuition and fees, housing, books, and supplies.

“We are excited about the opportunity to provide scholarships for students interested in a professional career as a waterfowl or wetlands ecologist, manager, or conservationist,” said Scenic Homes owner Paul Meng.

A former Natchez resident now residing in Atlanta, Meng also is an outdoors enthusiast and wildlife conservationist.

Scenic Homes/Kaminski Scholars must be enrolled full time in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in wildlife and fisheries science from the College of Forest Resources. An MSU grade-point average of 3.0 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale) and involvement in professional and leadership organizations in their field of study also are required.

“The scholarship is timely, considering that many waterfowl teaching and research programs in the U.S. and Canada are disappearing,” said Kaminski, the nationally known MSU wildlife and fisheries professor the scholarship is honoring.

“Data from a recent survey indicate the availability of college-level training, including



*Scenic Homes owner Paul Meng (c) surrounded by his partners and MSU employees.*

research opportunities, for aspiring waterfowl biologists could be halved within a decade,” he added.

Kaminski said the Scenic Homes scholarship endowment will help ensure that MSU students can “continue engaging their passion for waterfowl and wetlands ecology and management.”

In addition to a cover letter and resume, applicants should provide a three-page essay explaining reasons and needs for the award, as well as short- and long-term professional and personal goals.

Since 1990, Scenic Homes has constructed over 6,000 homes throughout the Southeast and is considered one of the top 100 builders in the U.S. As a member of the National Association of Home Builders, the company has been honored with the QBW Golden Achievement and QBW Builder of Integrity Awards in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

For more information about the scholarship or to apply, contact Dr. Bruce D. Leopold, head, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, MSU; 662-325-3830 or [bleopold@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:bleopold@cfr.msstate.edu)



## Help us change the life of a future professional

The CFR is soliciting scholarships for young men and women interested in pursuing a career in natural resources. Would you consider easing the financial burden for a student?

"The money received from this scholarship is essential for students like me to gain the knowledge and expertise to make a difference in natural resource management. The financial burdens of receiving a higher education is too often an obstacle not overcome. Because of the generosity of donors like you, I am only one of many students who now have the opportunity to make that difference."

Amanda Deese, wildlife major

## Love of natural resources a Starr family tradition



Walt and Lee Ann Starr with their children, Breland and Georgia.

Perhaps it is genetic or the result of years of listening to his father's words of wisdom. Whatever the reason, there is no denying Walt Starr's love for natural resources.

Walt is the son of beloved professor and the first Bulldog forester, John W. Starr. Starr began his 25-year career with MSU in 1948 as an assistant forester. In 1978, the school forest was renamed the John W. Starr Memorial Forest in his honor.

While Walt chose a different career path than his father—periodontics—his love for the College of Forest Resources is evident.

In 1991, Walt and wife Lee Ann funded the John and Caroline Starr Memorial Scholarship in Forest Management, making it the largest endowed scholarship in the college. In 1997, the Starrs donated a two-acre tract of land in Ridge Lakes, a subdivision in Starkville.

Most recently, the Starrs donated a 2.5-acre lot in Prairie Waters, a subdivision in Lowndes County.

"I am so grateful for the time I spent walking in the woods and listening to my father teach me about the natural world," Walt said. "My father left a legacy for me and my children, every time we drive down Highway 25 in Starkville and see the forest that bears his name, we are grateful for the lessons he left us."

"I want to leave a legacy also. The gifts that I leave, whether it is a scholarship or property for the Bulldog Forest, will help educate our future leaders in the forestry industry," Walt added.

To find out how you can create a legacy through the College of Forest Resources, contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151.

**Grow a Legacy**  
**BULLDOG FOREST**  
Mississippi State University

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/bulldogforest](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/bulldogforest)

# ALUMNI

## news

### Morgan named head of the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Charlie W. Morgan (forestry, 1973) of Canton, has been selected to serve as state forester of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, a service agency providing wildfire protection and forest management assistance on private and state-owned forestland.

"I'm very excited to be part of such an important agency to the state of Mississippi," said Morgan. "Timber and the forest-related natural resources are very important to the state's economy and the quality of life of Mississippians. The Mississippi Forestry Commission plays a vital role in the protection and management of this valuable resource."

A veteran businessman and no stranger to forestry, Morgan has been employed by International Paper for 32 years. Advancing through positions of increasing responsibility in areas of forest management, harvesting, and fiber procurement, Morgan eventually became manager of acquisition and harvesting of International Paper's West Region.

The Forestry Commission is a state agency having over 500 employees and a budget of \$27 million.

### MSU alum receives prestigious award

Darren Miller (wildlife and fisheries, 1993 and 1997) is the recipient of the American Forest and Paper Association's 2006 Wildlife Stewardship Award.

The Wildlife Stewardship Award recognizes significant achievements by wildlife and fisheries biologists or managers working with or for the forest industry that have advanced the science and practice of wildlife management, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program's goal of continuous improvement in forest resource management.

Darren is the wildlife research manager for Weyerhaeuser's Southern and Western Timberlands.

Darren was noted for his leadership skills, strong commitment to sound science, and uncompromising initiative. He was commended for his commitment and dedication to advance the quality of science and increase the understanding of bats and their conservation on managed forests.



*Matthew Raff (forestry, 2002), a loan officer at the Federal Land Bank in Senatobia, was recently honored along with colleagues in the branch bank for most new loans closed, highest volume closed, and overall outstanding performance.*

### MSU alum joins CFR



Randy Rousseau (forestry, 1980) has joined the CFR as an associate professor specializing in hardwood management. A native of Baton Rouge, La., Randy has worked for MeadWestvaco for the

last 25 years. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Louisiana State University and a doctorate from Mississippi State University.



**Jason M. Morris**  
**October 16, 1979 – April 25, 2005**

CFR family and friends gathered June 13 to celebrate the life of Jason Morris and dedicate a tree in front of Thompson Hall in his memory. Morris (forestry, 2001) worked as a research assistant in the Department of Forestry until his untimely death in 2005 from esophageal cancer that metastasized to his liver.

His 26 years of life were filled with passion for the outdoors. He spent the majority of his formative years living at Lake Forest Ranch, a Christian camp near Macon, where he learned how to fish, hunt, and cruise timber. It was in this setting that he developed his love for the land.

Morris intrepidly battled cancer for nearly a year before passing. His Christian attitude during this most difficult time set a courageous example. He will always be remembered for his quiet demeanor, loyal dependability, strength of character, and servant's heart.

A bald cypress was planted in front of Thompson Hall, a tree of his choosing, to serve as a reminder of his love for the squirrel woods of the Noxubee River bottom.

If anyone is interested in making a donation in his honor, you are encouraged to give to the Jason Morris Memorial Campership Fund at Lake Forest Ranch, which allows kids to attend this camp who might otherwise not be able to do so. Donations may be sent to Lake Forest Ranch, 5326 Lake Forest Road, Macon, MS 39341.



## IN MEMORY

**James A. Boyd** (forestry, 1962)

James Aldrich Boyd, 69, died May 11, 2006, after a battle with cancer. An avid outdoorsman, he was an Eagle Scout and enjoyed working with Scouts throughout his life. After college he began a career in sales and purchasing that would take him to various locations in the Southeast.

**George H. Dueitt** (forestry, 1968)

George H. Dueitt died October 7, 2006, at home in the Burnside community of Neshoba County. George worked with St. Regis (later Georgia Pacific Corp.) before becoming self-employed. Dueitt always had a smile and a caring heart for others.

**A.L. Jacobs** (forestry, 1954) died March 30, 2006.

**Randall W. Ingram** (CFR friend)

Randall W. Ingram died May 7, 2006. He succumbed to cancer after two years. As a registered forester, Randy consulted with clients in forestry management throughout Mississippi since 1974. His love of the outdoors was reflected in his fishing and hunting activities—activities which he generously shared with friends and family.

**Hamlin Lapham Williston** (CFR friend)

Hamlin Lapham Williston, 86, died March 5, 2006, at Baptist Memorial Hospital. A native of Hartford, Conn., he was a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Forestry School. He was a retired forester for the U.S. Forest Service having served in Crossett, Ark., before being transferred to Oxford in 1955. He was the assistant project leader on the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie Flood Prevention Project.

# STUDENT

## news



*Introducing the graduating class of May 2006. Rachel Singleton, coordinator of administrative affairs is pictured in the center.*

## Accolades

The MSU student chapter of the Society of American Foresters placed first in the 2006 SAF Student Chapter Web Site competition and is ranked as the top chapter in the nation.

The MSU student chapter of the Forest Products Society received an excellent ranking by the Forest Products Society for the 2005-06 school year.

A forestry undergraduate student, Alicia Wiseman, received the 2006 Spirit of State Award. This award was recently created by the Division of Student Affairs and recognizes current students who have made significant contributions that improved the quality of university life.

Bridget Nicole Hodges, a wildlife and fisheries undergraduate student, received the Mississippi Wildlife Federation scholarship for 2005-06.



### **MSU student honored for waterfowl study presentation**

Aaron T. Pearse of Oberlin, Kan., a doctoral student in wildlife and fisheries received a top award for an oral report given at the recent Fourth North American Duck Symposium in Bismarck, N.D. "Evaluation of an Aerial Survey to Estimate Wintering Waterfowl Abundance in Mississippi" was the title of the wildlife and fisheries major's study.



# ALUMNI updates

## 1950s

**Charles Green** (*forestry, 1959*) and wife Eleanor both suffered an aneurysm earlier this year. Charles is feeling better and looking forward to hunting season. He started kidney dialysis about six weeks ago. He's able to take his treatments at home.

## 1960s

**Jimmy D. Moore** (*forestry, 1964*) has retired from the Boy Scouts of America after a 36-year professional career.

**W. Lewis Kearney** (*forestry, 1965*) and wife Marilyn live in Cleveland, Tenn. Lewis recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service after working 40 years and eight months. Lewis has done some contract work with the Forest Service and FEMA since his October 2005 retirement. He has also gone on four fire details since retiring. The remainder of his time is spent with grand kids and trout fishing.

**Don Nevels** (*forestry, 1965*) and wife Sandra are living in the "Redneck Riveria," also known as Foley, Ala.

**Joel D. Sills** (*forestry, 1965*) and wife Gabriela are living in Sebring, Fla. Joel was the first forester that graduated under the

newly accredited forestry school in August 1965. Joel delayed Dean Clapps' trip to Ireland so that he could walk down the aisle with him as the only forestry graduate in the summer of 1965. Joel is self-employed.

**Earl Alford** (*forestry, 1966*) and wife Pauline have a new grandson, courtesy of son Mac and daughter-in-law, Dragana. Stefan Philip Alford was born on October 21 and mother and son are doing fine.

## 1970s

**William Audenaert** (*forest Products, 1976 and 1979*) is living in Madison, Ala.

**Jared C. Johnson** (*forestry, 1976*) is living in Idabel, Okla.

**Kent Davenport** (*forestry, 1977*) is the fire management officer for the National Forests in Alabama.

**Weston Shaw Davis** (*forestry, 1977; Wildlife and Fisheries, 1981*) and wife Lori live in Richmond Hill, Ga., with their daughter Rachel. Weston is a refuge manager and deputy project leader at the Savannah Coastal Refuges.

**Brendix Glasgow** (*forestry, 1978*) is the Northeast District Forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Brendix and wife Vickie live in Tishomingo.

## 1980s

**Stephen E. Lee** (*forestry, 1982*) was appointed district ranger, Conecuh National Forest, Alabama.

**Joe Nicholason** (*forestry, 1982*) is the recreation program unit leader for the National Forests in Alabama.

**Ray Newbold** (*forestry, 1987*) had a mild heart attack in May 2004.

**Paul Nace** (*forestry, 1988 and 1994*) is living in Warren, Ark.

## 1990s

**Keith B. Lannom** (*forestry, 1990 and 1992*) and wife Karen are living in Vonore, Tenn. Keith is the district ranger for the USDA Forest Service Cherokee National Forest.

**J.J. McCool** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1990*) and wife Angela live in Fairhope, Ala. J.J. is the owner/president of Wildlife Solutions, Inc. He conducts forestry and

# ALUMNI updates

wildlife management along with other environmental surveys including wetland delineation and endangered species. He and wife Angela have two children, Coby, 6, and Camille, 4.

**Tracey L. Broussard Jordan** (*forestry, 1993*) and husband Darren live in Benalla, Australia. Tracey is the district forester for Hancock Victorian Plantations Australia.

**Darren Miller** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1993 and 1997*) and wife Michelle live in Starkville with their two daughters. Darren has worked as the Southern wildlife research manager for Weyerhaeuser Co. since 2000. In early 2006, Darren assumed the role of wildlife research manager for Weyerhaeuser's Southern and Western Timberlands.

**Dave Edwards Jr.** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1996*) and wife Heather live in Tuscaloosa, Ala. with their three children. Dave was recently promoted to manager of Westvelt Wildlife Services where he provides wildlife consulting to private landowners across the Southeast. Dave also provides guidance and supervision over the management of over one million acres of hunting leases across the Southeast.

**Lee Frederick** (*forestry, 1996*) is working for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection as a Customs and Border Protection Officer on the Marine Team in Gulfport. He is married and has two children, Tyler and Kaleigh. Lee is also a first lieutenant in the Mississippi Air National Guard.

**Charles D. Lovell** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1996*) and wife Harper are living in Pickett, Wisc. Charles is a District Supervisor/Wildlife Biologist for USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services.

**Thomas H. White Jr.** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1996*) and wife Arelis Jhonson-Camacho are living in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Thomas is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program.

**John Baird** (*wildlife and fisheries, 1997*) and wife Becky are living in Elgin, S.C. John is the operations manager for Army computer simulations. John received a master's degree in 2001 and was deployed to Iraq from April 2003 to April 2004. He graduated Command and Staff College (U.S. Army) in May 2006 and is eligible to be promoted from major to lieutenant colonel.

**Paje Brown Owens** (*forestry, 1997*) is living in Nantucket, Maine, and working for Blackwell Associates Inc. as a land surveyor in-training.

**Gregory Layne Warren** (*forestry, 1998*) and wife Andrea live in Pontotoc. Greg is the owner of Timber Creek Forestry LLC.

**Stephen D. Bass** (*forestry, 1999*) is a loan officer/appraiser for Land Bank South. Stephen and wife Amy live in Meridian.

**Tamara Cushing** (*forestry, 1999*) had a little boy on August 14th, Maxwell Anthony. He weighed 9 lbs, 11 oz. Tammy is a professor at the University of Kentucky, working for MSU alum Steve Bullard. Tammy and her husband have a daughter as well.

## 2000s

**T.C. Knight** (*forestry, 2000 and 2003*) was appointed silviculturist of the Conecuh National Forest, Alabama.

**Brad Lang** (*forestry, 2000*) is the Shelby county manager for the Alabama Forestry Commission.

**John Townsend** (*forestry, 2000*) was recently appointed timber manager for the Tombigbee National Forest, Alabama.



# ALUMNI updates

**Randy Whitaker** (*forest products, 2000*) is living in Rome, Ga. Randy is a CPI Engineer for Temple-Inland.

**Ben Bingham** (*forestry, 2001*) and wife Suzanne are living in Nettleton. Ben is a forester for the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis. Ben and Suzanne have a 10-month-old son, Reed.

**Will Bowlin** (*wildlife and fisheries, 2001*) is living in New Albany. He is a conservation officer for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Will recently was selected as a board member for the North American Game Warden Museum, located near the U.S.-Canadian border at the International Peace Garden in North Dakota.

**Eric W. Entrekin** (*forestry, 2001*) and wife Allison live in Meridian. Eric is the owner of Southeast Forestlands.

**Kerry M. Clark** (*forestry, 2001*) and wife Amberley are living in Jasper, Ala. Kerry is an assistant fire management officer for the U.S. Forest Service.

**Clay Seale** (*forest products, 2001*) and wife Mary live in Batesville. Clay is a Quality Engineer for Batesville Casket.

**Christopher E. Allen** (*forest products, 2002*) is living in Pearl.

**Caree Crosby** (*forestry, 2002*) is working for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection as an Agriculture Specialist in Gulfport.

**Brad Stombock** (*forest products, 2002*) and wife Courtney are living in Quincy, Fla. Brad is working for Prudential Financial.

**Shane Harrington** (*forestry, 2003*) had hip replacement surgery in August. He is doing well and working as a BMP Forester for the Texas Forest Service.

**John Kirkpatrick** (*forest products, 2003 and 2005*) and wife Kelly live in Valdosta, Ga. John is a quality assurance special projects supervisor for iLevel by Weyerhaeuser.

**Courtney White** (*forestry, 2003*) and wife Lori live in Northport, Ala. Courtney is a forester for Shuqualak Lumber Company Inc. Courtney and Lori have two children, Connor, 4, and Liz Morgan, 10 months.

**Cortney L. Ohs** (*wildlife and fisheries, 2003*) and wife Holly live in Vero Beach, Fla. Cortney is an assistant professor at the University of Florida.

**Brad Lang** (*forestry, 2006*) is living in Calera, Ala. Brad is the Shelby County manager for the Alabama Forestry Commission.

## Retired Faculty

**Jim Moak** just celebrated his 90th birthday on October 26. Dr. Moak and wife Eleanor are doing fine, going to the Wellness Connection regularly and spending time with children and family. If you would like to send him a card, the address is 1230 Hillcrest Circle, Starkville, MS 39759. His phone number is 662-323-4489.

**Terry Sellers Jr.** and wife Joan live in Oneonta, Ala. Dr. Sellers is working as a consultant and enjoying his grandchildren. If you would like to drop Dr. Sellers a note his address is 246 Scenic Trail, Oneonta, AL 35121-2910. His phone number is 205-274-4863.

# ALUMNI society

It is time for CFR alumni society elections. In this newsletter, you will find an envelope to return your vote and your dues (\$25 each year). The dues are used to sponsor students for Natural Resources Summer Camp, award scholarships and leadership awards, among other things.

## Alumni Society candidates

President: Steve Smith

First Vice President: Chad Smith

Second Vice President: Garrett Walsh

Secretary/Treasurer: Will Bowlin

write-in candidate

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As past president, Don Thompson will move to the Board of Directors along with two new appointees: Jim Sledge and Clay Altizer.

Sid Moss and Bill Bustin were appointed to the History Committee.

## Are YOU Connected? to the CFR Alumni Society

The CFR Alumni Society has a new list serv to keep alums connected with up-to-date news and information. If you would like to join the list serv, please go to [www.cfr.msstate.edu/cfr/html/alumandfriends/](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/cfr/html/alumandfriends/) and update your alumni information.





# ALUMNI updates

To be included in the update, complete and return this form to Karen Brasher, Box 9680, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9680 or e-mail [kbrasher@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:kbrasher@cfr.msstate.edu).

## We want your news!

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Mississippi State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.

# Publications via the Internet



## **Computer automation of a LiDAR double-sample forest inventory**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/lidar.pdf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/lidar.pdf)

LIDARDS, a Windows-based menu system, provides a set of data formats and computational procedures that facilitate the rapid computation of a stratified, LiDAR-based, double-sample forest inventory.

## **Conservation Reserve Program mid-contract management: Practices for wildlife habitat improvement in Mississippi**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/midcontract.pdf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/midcontract.pdf)

In Mississippi, nearly one million acres are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). However, not all CRP provides good wildlife habitat. Active management of CRP ground cover is essential to produce quality wildlife habitat.

## **Job satisfaction and workforce demographics**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/jobsatisfaction.pdf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/jobsatisfaction.pdf)

In this study, the effect of personal demographic characteristics—income, education, occupation, age, and gender—on job satisfaction are investigated.

## **Pine forestland habitat management for wildlife**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/forestland.pdf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/forestland.pdf)

With forethought and planning, forest landowners can increase wildlife populations in their forests.

## **Planning and prioritization of northern bobwhite habitat restoration in Mississippi**

[www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/MSmodel.pdf](http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/MSmodel.pdf)

Bobwhite habitat suitability was modeled as a function of landscape structure and composition in a logistic regression context.