



College of  
**Forest Resources**  
n e w s l e t t e r

FALL 2002



Forest Products professors Dan Seale (far left) and Terry Sellers (far right) look over a board with TimTek directors (l to r) Walter Jarck, Geoff Sanderson, and Dave Mortenson. For complete story, see page 8.

FOREST  
RESOURCES

# Dean's Comments

Dear alumni and friends,

Time flies when you are having fun! It is hard for me to realize, but I now have been at Mississippi State University in the College of Forest Resources (CFR) and Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC) for a year and a half! It truly has been exciting! It has been interesting to meet so many of our alumni, friends, and collaborators, as well as to learn of the opportunities and challenges in forest resource management facing the state. I am even more convinced that as a state, Mississippi certainly is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. The challenge is to utilize them in a sustainable way to benefit all our citizens both economically and in quality of life.

Speaking of having fun, there was lots of fun to be had at the CFR Alumni Fishing Derby on May 18. This event was held at the small pond near the log cabin off Blackjack Road. Given that the pond had been stocked with hundreds of catfish a few days earlier by the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, the fishing was easy and plentiful! The lunch that went along with the derby was great. I hope that many of you took the opportunity to join us for that event. Ruth Cook is this year's CFR alumni president and I am certain that she and her officers have lots of good ideas for events. Please join in!

There are so many good things happening at the college and FWRC that I don't quite know where to begin. Overall, our student population is level or down just a bit, as the numbers vary a bit from department to department. We are gearing up for recruitment at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Please take the time to encourage a potential student and help them to make the connection with us. We will take it from there.

Our research program in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center continues to grow. In fact, this past year (FY 2002) was our best ever for extramural funding—\$5.3 million. I am continually impressed at the high quality, creativity, and quantity of research produced by our faculty and staff. They are under high demand in the state, region, nation, and internationally. You will see the details of several of these research studies in this issue of our newsletter.

Another measure of our research prowess is new facilities. In May, we broke ground on the new Franklin Furniture Manufacturing and Management Center, which is jointly funded by generous gifts from Hassell Franklin and others, as well as funding from the state of Mississippi. In addition, we just signed an agreement with TimTek Australia to house a pilot plant for their new process of making composite wood lumber products. The facility to house that pilot plant also will be erected at the Forest Products Lab site near the new furniture building.

The search for a new department head in the Forest Products Department is going well. Unfortunately, this process always takes longer than anticipated, but we are on track and plan to interview the top candidates by early October. I am very proud of the Forest Products Department and want to find an outstanding leader to take the helm there. Meanwhile, Interim Department Head Steve Bullard is doing a fine job of leading the department and we sure do owe him our gratitude for a job well done.

Budget cuts on both the academic and research side continue to plague us this fiscal year—the third year in a row. In fact, in the FWRC, we are back to where we were in FY1998!



G. Sam Foster

We are living in tough financial times in both the state and the nation, but we do have many friends throughout the state and, especially, in the Legislature. These friends are watching out for us and will continue to come to our aid.

In conclusion, I thank you for your support. Please be active in the CFR Alumni Society and encourage the recent graduates to do so, as well. We strive to be the best in the country and to help Mississippi to prosper through the wise management and use of its natural resources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Sam Foster".

G. Sam Foster  
Dean/Director

# Gray named CFR Alumnus of the Year



**Brian T. Gray** of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, (l) is presented the College of Forest Resources Alumnus of the Year award by CFR dean Sam Foster. Director of conservation programs and information systems for Ducks Unlimited Canada, he earned a doctorate in 1992 in wildlife ecology. The annual awards program is sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association to honor graduates who are recognized leaders in their fields of endeavor. Gray joined DUC's headquarters in Stonewall in 1996 after working for a number of years as a wildlife scientist at Alberta-based Golder Associates.

## Doris Lee Staff Awards

Accounting services coordinator **Leslie Marsh** (r) and accounting records assistant **Judy Goodman** are among Mississippi State University employees honored at the recent annual banquet of the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Both received the 2002 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards for outstanding service.



## Faculty Award Winners



Three College of Forest Resources faculty members have been honored with outstanding achievement awards at Mississippi State. Receiving the 2002 awards are (l-r) professor **Rick Kaminski**, for teaching; extension professor **Glenn Hughes**, for service; and associate professor **Eric Dibble**, for research. The honors were presented at the recent annual banquet of the college and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Congratulating them is CFR dean Sam Foster, who also serves as center director.



# DEPARTMENT Updates

## FORESTRY

- **Dr. Bob Daniels** has been elected as a Society of American Forester's Fellow.
- **Dr. Robert C. Parker** is participating in the development of the Society of American Forester's Certified Forester Program exams.
- **Kathryn G. Arano**, a Ph.D. candidate, has been awarded a graduate research fellowship from the Political Economy Research Center based in Bozeman, Mont. PERC is an internationally recognized institute dedicated to seeking out and developing market solutions to environmental problems.
- **Dr. Ian Munn** is serving as editor of the Southern Journal of Applied Forestry for the Society of American Foresters. Munn also recently completed the ESCOP/ACOP Leadership Development Program, a professional development program sponsored by the Experiment Station Committee on

Organization and Policy and the Academic Programs Committee on Organization and Policy. **Dr. Keith Belli** currently is participating in the ESCOP/ACOP Leadership Development Program.

- **Dr. Tom Monaghan**, forestry extension leader, has retired after 26 years of service.
- **Dr. John Gunter**, professor of forestry, has retired after seven years of service.
- **Dr. Stephen C. Grado** is an associate editor of the Wildlife Society Bulletin.
- **Dr. William B. Stuart** is an associate editor of the Journal of Forest Engineering.

## FOREST PRODUCTS

- **Dr. Mike Barnes** received the Fred W. Gottschalk Memorial Award from the Forest Products Society. Named for the first president of FPS, this award recognizes and honors exceptional service to the Forest Products Society by an individual member.

- **Bessie Collier**, senior custodian, retired after 25 years of service.
- **Dutch Ames**, project technician, retired after 30 years of service.
- **Kimberly Tarlton** has joined the staff as a research associate in the wood chemistry area.
- **Brian Mitchell** has joined the staff as a research associate in the machine vision laboratory.
- **Dr. Ian Hartley** has left the department to accept a position as an assistant professor at the University of Northern British Columbia.
- **Dr. Steve Hunter** has joined the faculty as an associate professor. Hunter is an expert in lean manufacturing design and implementation.
- **David Headley**, Wood Magic Science Fair coordinator, has accepted a position at Lowe's. The coordinator position could not be funded with current budget cuts.



### ROMANIANS VISIT FOREST PRODUCTS

A delegation of Romanians visited facilities in the Columbus area as part of a tour of timber and forest-products industries in the United States. The group toured Airline Manufacturing in Columbus and the Forest Products Laboratory at MSU. Romania is trying to maximize the benefits from forest resources. The trip was spurred by Romania's program in land restitution to individual owners and communities.

# DEPARTMENT Updates

## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **Dr. Louis R. D'Abramo** is the 2002 HEADWAE Faculty Member of the Year at Mississippi State. The honor is given to both a faculty member and student as part of the Mississippi Legislature's annual Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence program.
- **Dr. Jeanne Jones** received an honorable mention award from the Federal Planners Division of the American Planning Association.
- **Rachel Josey**, extension administrative secretary, retired after 22 years of service.
- **Bradley Taylor**, animal care coordinator, left the department and has been replaced by **Steven Tucker**.
- **Rich Minnis** has been named the editor of the Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement sponsored by the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer Association. Minnis, along with graduate student **Chad Dacus** and **Jim Wilcutt** of the MDWFP were honored for the best research paper of the year in the Law Enforcement Section at the South-

eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

- **Randy Deyoung**, a Ph.D. candidate, received the Southeast Deer Study Group's Outstanding Student Presentation Award at its 2002 Annual Meeting.
- **Dr. Rick Kaminski** was selected for the Oktibbeha

County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2001 Outstanding Wetland Conservationist Award.

- **Dr. Ben West** has joined the faculty as an assistant wildlife extension specialist. His expertise is in wildlife conservation on private lands, youth conservation education, and wildlife damage management.

## MEMORIALS

**Joan Perkins**, retired secretary in forest products, died July 6. She was 67 years old. Ms. Perkins served the faculty and staff of the furniture research group for seven years before retiring in 1998.



Hannigan



Perkins

**Mary Hannigan**, research associate in forest products, died March 15. She was 45 years old. Mrs. Hannigan served in the environmental biotechnology area for 14 years, working with Drs. Borazjani and Diehl and assisted numerous graduate students in their research.

A memorial fountain and garden is being established at the Forest Products Laboratory. Contributions to the fountain and garden in memory of Joan or Mary may be sent to Jeanie McNeel, Box 9820, Mississippi State, MS 39762.



# DEVELOPMENT

u p d a t e

## Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management

Mississippi State broke ground May 28, 2002, for a new 35,000 square-foot furniture manufacturing and management center.

To be located at the intersection of Blackjack Road and Locksley Way on the western edge of the Starkville campus, the building will be named for Chickasaw County furniture manufacturer and lead contributor Hassell H. Franklin.

Franklin is founder, president, and chief executive officer of the Franklin Corp. A Houston resident and 1959

industrial management graduate, he was MSU's national alumnus of the year in 1995.

A \$1 million gift from Franklin is supplementing other private gifts and \$3 million the Legislature appropriated for

the building last year. Designed by Pryor and Morrow Architects of Jackson and Columbus, the facility will house research laboratories, classrooms, offices, and an auditorium/distance-learning classroom.

"The center also will house the newly created Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management," said Sam Foster, CFR dean. "The institute is an interdisciplinary program drawing on the strengths of the colleges of Business and Industry, Engineering,



Digging the first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking are (l-r) Department of Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Lester Spell; Bryce Griffis, president, Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning; MSU Interim President J. Charles Lee; Hassell Franklin, president and CEO, Franklin Corp.; Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck; Dr. Vance Watson, interim vice president, Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine; Dr. G. Sam Foster, dean, College of Forest Resources; State Sen. Jack Gordon,



and Forest Resources, as well as the School of Architecture and MSU's Extension Service."

Foster, who also directs the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, said some 50,000 Mississippi workers currently produce approximately 70 percent of the nation's upholstered

furniture. Research, including frame and design testing, by FWRC scientists is estimated to save the state's manufacturers more than \$3 million annually, he added.



Franklin

# DEVELOPMENT

u p d a t e

## FY 2001-2002 donors recognized

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*We are always appreciative of our friends and alumni who give so generously to MSU and the College of Forest Resources. We strive to be accurate with our donor list and apologize for any inadvertent omissions. The list of donors for July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002, is as follows:*

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#### DEAN'S DELEGATE

\$100-249



## Project explores use for small-diameter trees

Scientists at Mississippi State University have teamed with an Australian company to provide a valuable product using tree thinnings from pine plantations.

Mississippi has more than 2.8 million acres of plantation pine and landowners have had problems finding markets for small, 13-year old pine trees thinned from the plantations.

TimTek, an Australian-based firm with offices in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, and Clarkesville, Ga., has developed a process for creating high strength lumber from the three-to eight-inch-diameter Southern yellow pine trees.

The company has signed an agreement with MSU to locate the TimTek pilot plant at the Forest Products Laboratory to produce the engineered lumber.

"The TimTek product is a unique, new, long-fiber structural engineered lumber that has uniform, stable and high-strength properties of select-grade sawn timber," said Walter Jarck, a director of TimTek Australia. "It can be produced in lengths and cross-section greater than can be achieved from the largest logs available."

The end product, he added, is economically and environmentally sound. "The beams and timbers will compete favorably with the present day engineered products for uses in



Geoff Sanderson (c) shows a TimTek board to Dr. Sam Foster (l), CFR dean, and Dr. Vance Watson, interim vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

residential and commercial construction as joists, rafters, headers and other uses where strength and quality are required," he said.

The Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources board is providing \$1 million to bring the technology to the state and provide funds for related infrastructure. Dr. Lester Spell, a representative for the board, said that these funds are provided for innovative projects such as the TimTek/MSU partnership.

"The TimTek/MSU partnership will be beneficial to the state, which currently has 18.6 million acres of forest land, 70 percent of which is owned by private landowners," said Dr. Dan Seale, professor in the Department of Forest Products and project investigator. "In the past, the small-diameter trees were used for pulpwood, but with pulpwood demand decreasing in the South, this product could offer new revenues for private landowners throughout the region."

Developed and patented by Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, the process uses small-diameter trees to form a resin/wood fiber composite. The pilot plant will be used to demonstrate the technology to the industry.

TimTek surveyed universities and industrial partners in the United States and Canada to determine the best location for a pilot plant to produce their new product. MSU was chosen because of its strong composite wood

product research program.

"The purpose of the pilot plant is to demonstrate that the new technology will work with small-diameter raw materials," Seale said. "The Forest and Wildlife Research Center also will determine the strength values of the product, test the product to help gain building code acceptance, and demonstrate this new technology to the forest products industry."

In addition to landowners, wood-processing operations are expected to benefit from the technology that can be incorporated into their plants.

"We currently have an excess of small-diameter wood because there's not much demand," said Larry Jarrett, landowner and president of the Mississippi Forestry Association. "We have studied additional markets for small-diameter wood and we are excited about the opportunities that the TimTek technology will provide for landowners throughout the state and the region."



## MSU helping space center with natural resource management

There's much more to Hancock County's John C. Stennis Space Center than high-tech laboratories and giant rocket engine test stands. The latest in space-age technology exists along with virtually every species of

wildlife represented in South Mississippi.

The almost 16,000 acres—about 25 square miles—that encompass the National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility on the Pearl

River "is very rich in natural resources," said Don Grebner, assistant professor of forestry at Mississippi State.

With a grant totaling nearly \$100,000, Grebner has begun directing a new project to provide NASA with resource management information. He and other scientists in MSU's departments of Forestry and Wildlife and Fisheries will develop plans to integrate timber harvest and production with wildlife conservation.

"The space center is interested both in producing timber and conserving wildlife, including species with declining regional populations," Grebner said. "Because of the abundance of diverse forest habitats and proximity to New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it's an important natural resource that should be managed for multiple uses."

Over the next two years, MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center personnel will collect data on Stennis' wildlife and plant populations. Bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, wild hogs, toads, and plants that indicate wetland habitats will be studied.

The resulting data then will be used to enhance the space center's management planning for the forests and wetlands.

"The information we present will provide for healthy and productive tree stands, vegetative diversity, forage production for wildlife and a wetland mitigation strategy," Grebner said. "It also may provide potential opportunities for recreational uses."

## Project explores forest products industry needs

Mississippi State's Forest and Wildlife Research Center is beginning an assessment of both company and individual employee needs in the state's forest products industry.

Commissioned recently by the Mississippi Development Authority, the five-month project will employ a cluster analysis to identify ways to enhance the competitive advantages of various industry sectors.

"A cluster is a geographic concentration of sometimes-competing, sometimes-collaborating firms and the related support infrastructure," said project investigator John Gunter. "Previous cluster studies have generated increased awareness of the industries involved and can promote public/private linkages, resulting in economic growth."

Gunter, a forest economist, said logging, lumber and wood products, paper and allied products, and wood furniture and related products are the sectors being studied.

"Forest products are an important component of Mississippi's economy, supporting directly and indirectly some 152,000 employees and total annual industry output of \$14.8 billion," he explained. "With more than 18.6 million acres of timberland, ensuring Mississippi's lead in the world's forest products market is tremendously important for the state's economy."

Mississippi's forest products industry includes several hundred manufacturing sites operated by companies ranging from multi-billion dollar fully integrated global multi-site businesses to small family-owned firms.

"Companies at both ends of this spectrum often find it necessary to hire employees with more education and to implement training programs for existing employees," Gunter said. "In addition to defining cluster linkages, the study will identify employers' needs, workforce availability, existing educational and training programs, and skills gaps."

The project also will assess the readiness of the currently available workforce and of the projected workforce through the year 2006 based on existing educational programs.

When completed later this year, the study will include specific recommendations "for building a stronger, more competitive forest products industry in Mississippi," Gunter said.

## MSU study: Color forest industry economic impact very green

A recently completed Mississippi State report shows just how much of the state's economy rests in the shade of its vast forest lands.

While it's well known that forestry is important to the state, most residents may not appreciate that "the more than 18 million acres of forest land in Mississippi means trees cover two-thirds of the state's land area," said Ian Munn of the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The associate professor of forestry said a center-sponsored study sought "to measure the total economic impact of the \$1.3 billion worth of timber products harvested and

delivered to mills and manufacturing plants in Mississippi each year."

Completed by Munn and graduate student James E. Henderson, the project examined the forest industry's four main sectors: logging, solid wood products, pulp and paper, and wood furniture manufacturing. Employing a computerized database and modeling software, they looked at employment, wages paid, total value of production, and value added through the manufacturing process.

Using 1998 data--the most recent available--they found the forestry/forest products industry:

—Accounts for about 13 percent of Mississippi's total economic activity, contributing \$14.8 billion in total industrial output and generating \$6.5 billion in value-added income, and

—Employs more than 151,000 Mississippians.

"These employees hold 10 percent of all jobs in the state and receive \$4.2 billion in wages," Munn said. "Also, the average income for forestry and forest products jobs is \$29,065, or \$5,820 more than the average wage for Mississippians in general."

## Scientists working to fill wood preservative gap

Within two years, U.S. homeowners will lose their first line of defense against the forces that can destroy decks, fences, and other wooden outdoor structures.

The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced the phase-out of chromated copper arsenate—CCA—a wood preservative used to pressure-treat lumber for protection against termites, fungi and other wood-destroying organisms.

Currently, more than 95 percent of all treated lumber used in homes, decks, and for other residential purposes is treated with CCA, according to Dr. Tor Schultz, a wood chemist in the Forest Products Laboratory at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"The total cost to U.S. homeowners caused by termites and decay fungi is estimated at about \$5 billion per year, so it's important to use treated lumber to protect houses and other structures built of wood," he said.

Schultz and other MSU scientists are moving to fill the gap left by the elimination of currently available wood preservatives.

"Industry has developed second generation of copper/organic wood preservatives, but their use will likely be relatively short term because of the environmental risks associated with copper and issues involved with disposal of wood treated with any metal," Schultz said.

Anticipating the eventuality of a CCA ban, Forest Products Lab scientists began work in 1988 on new types of preservative mixtures. Termed "totally organic biocides," these preservatives will be easier to dispose of because they are environmentally benign.

While Mississippi State already has received three patents based on organic biocide research, university scientists are working to make the products even more effective and economical.

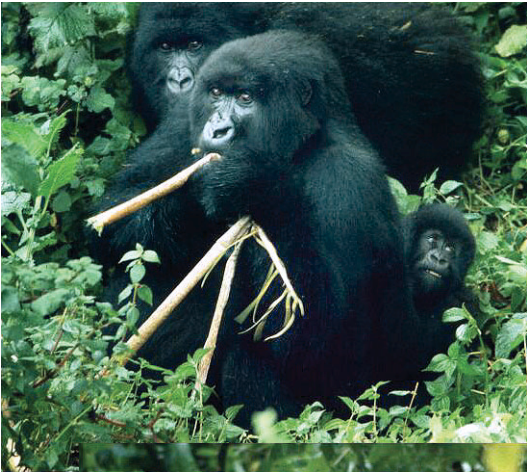
"Organic biocide mixtures are costly to make," Schultz said. "To address this, we have developed formulations that increase the efficiency of the mixture and lower the cost by using inexpensive additives, some of which are so safe they also are used as food additives."

Testing of the new wood-protecting formulations began about five years ago, but still has several years to go before the products will be ready for public use.

"We are conducting both ground-contact and above-ground testing of the products and we need at least 10 years of outdoor results," Schultz added. "The long testing periods are necessary because treated wood is expected to last for many years in structures like fences and decks."

The research could be a major step in developing environmentally friendly and relatively low-cost wood preservatives, which are important to both the forest products industry and homeowners, Schultz added.

## Research helping protect real 'gorillas in the mist'



Mississippi State scientists with expertise in sophisticated electronic tracking systems are part of an ongoing international effort to protect the few remaining great apes of Africa.

A university team at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center is using equipment that can generate information based on geographic location to determine when and where endangered mountain gorillas come in contact with humans and domestic animals.

The MSU effort is part of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, which provides health care for the 650 remaining gorillas in the Central African countries of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Every year, tourists from throughout the world pay big bucks to trek into the gorillas' distant jungle habitat. While they contribute much-needed revenue to the cash-strapped region, the visitors also pose possible health risks to the animals.

"The mountain gorillas have been catching diseases from tourists in the Virunga Mountains and Vwindi Impenetrable National Park," said MSU research scientist Rich Minnis. "Though only about

10 tourists make guided visits to the gorillas each day, a recent outbreak of mange among the animals has prompted scientists to take a closer look at the interaction of the mountain gorillas with humans, other primates, and livestock."

Minnis said the MSU research effort focuses on spatial information—time and space—in relation to the gorillas. Using data collected by guides as they take tourists into the refuge, the researchers record the location of the animals with a global positioning system, which uses satellite signals to plot locations on the ground.

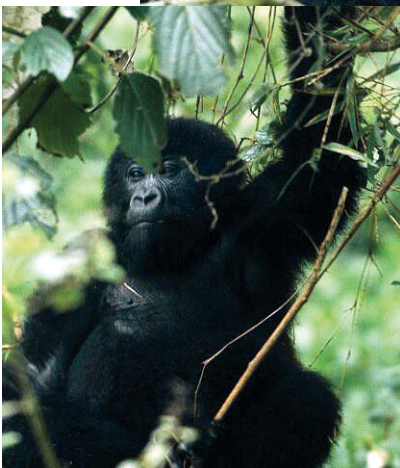
"This data can then be incorporated into a geographic information system, or GIS, to determine where the gorillas travel and when they cross paths with humans," Minnis explained. "During the next nine months, we expect to record about 1,200 gorilla observations.

"Once incorporated into the GIS, the data will tell us where the gorillas travel and at what times and locations they come in contact with humans or livestock," he added.

Funded by the Englewood, Colo.-based Morris Animal Foundation, the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project includes scientists from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., the Baltimore Zoo, and the Uganda Wildlife Association, among others. The organization began work with the gorillas in 1986 at the urging of anthropologist Dian Fossey, whose 18-year study of the endangered primates inspired the 1988 movie "Gorillas in the Mist."



Minnis





# EVENTS

## Alumni

### CFR Social Events at Upcoming Annual Meetings

Look for the CFR Alumni Society meeting at these upcoming events

**WILDLIFE SOCIETY MEETING, Sept. 24-28, 2002, Bismarck, N.D.**

**MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, Oct. 22-24, 2002, Jackson**

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS, Oct. 5-10, 2002, Winston-Salem, N.C.**

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISHERIES**

**AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES,**

**Oct. 27-30, 2002, Baltimore, Md.**

**MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS, February, 2003, Tupelo**

## Fishing Derby and Picnic



Ruth Cook, president of the CFR Alumni Society, addresses the group as Dean Sam Foster looks on.



Wildlife and Fisheries alumnus Darren Miller and daughter show off their catch.



Interim President Charles Lee and wife Pat came by to enjoy the picnic festivities.



Forestry alumnus Ramsey Russell and son show off one of their catches.



Forestry alumnus I.Q. Eubanks and wife were able to reel one in.



Forestry professor Andy Ezell and his children seemed to have the best location for catching the big ones.

### Letter from CFR alumni president Ruth Cook

Of the 2,519 current graduates of our College of Forest Resources, you probably wouldn't be surprised to hear that 58 percent currently are residing in Mississippi. However, test yourself. Can you correctly answer these two questions about your fellow alumni:

- CFR alumni can be found in how many states of the union?

- Behind Mississippi, which are the next five most "populated" states?

Mull on these while I update you on your CFR Alumni Society.

As in the past, we'll be hosting breakfasts or "socials" at the upcoming annual meetings. In the future, we're hoping to expand these opportunities to get together through some regional dinners and at neighboring states' forestry meetings, so watch for notices. This upcoming spring, we're looking to work with the Department of Forestry and the Forestry Club to hold our Spring Reunion in conjunction with the Forestry Club's Mini-Conclave/Field Day—so think about sharpening up your skills! You'll be getting more details shortly.

Budget cuts over the past years have left major holes within the college that grants and existing private donations have been unable to fill. The CFR Alumni Society is planning on stepping in to help. Board members are working diligently with Dean Foster, the department heads, and CFR faculty members to identify and fill current specific needs within the college. Plans include supplying research funding, acquiring teaching materials and equipment, and beefing up existing scholarship endowments, among other projects. By the time this newsletter is published, we should be well under way.

Are you ready for answers? CFR alumni currently are represented in 48 states and the District of Columbia. And the two we're missing? Wyoming and Hawaii—any volunteers? Behind Mississippi, CFR alumni are most heavily concentrated in Alabama (249), Georgia (94), Tennessee (89), Florida (82), and Louisiana (80).

# Student Services

## SAF leads project learning tree

Members of the Society of American Foresters Student Chapter at Mississippi State recently led Project Learning Tree at Starkville's Overstreet Elementary School. More than 300 students entered an essay contest, with Kristina Kunz from Harriet Rook's class receiving the \$10 first prize and certificate from Brian Berryman, forestry senior, and Jessica Smith, forestry graduate student. The third-grade students not only received instruction from university students, but also were encouraged to enter the essay contest based on the quotation, "What the Forest Means to Me."



Kristina Kunz, (l), receives her prize from Brian Berryman and Jessica Smith.

## Student places in annual conclave

MSU student Kevin Parker of DeKalb recently participated in the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave at Texas A&M University in



Parker

College Station. A forestry senior, Parker placed third in pole felling and second in log chopping during the competition.



### CFR AWARD WINNERS

Students were honored at the College of Forest Resources Annual Awards Banquet for academic, service, and leadership accomplishments. They include (seated, l-r) Shelley Earles, outstanding member of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Club; Joe Mallard, outstanding undergraduate student in forestry; Judson Hulsey, senior academic achievement in forestry; Amanda Grau, U.S. Forest Service science award and senior academic achievement award in forestry; and Susan Stewart, outstanding undergraduate student in wildlife and fisheries. Standing are (l-r) Jacob Shively, sophomore academic achievement in wildlife and fisheries; Brad Stombeck, senior academic achievement and outstanding undergraduate awards in forest products; Robert Harmon, sophomore academic achievement award in forestry; Matthew Vrazel, outstanding graduate student in forest products; Andrew McKelroy, sophomore academic achievement award in forest products; Stan Copeland, outstanding forester award for the Forestry Club; Chad Dacus, Gluesing, outstanding graduate student in wildlife and

fisheries award and the David Nabi Memorial Award; and Mehmet Cetin Yuceer, Moehring Outstanding Graduate Student in Forestry Award. Eric Ehlers, outstanding graduate in forest products, and Ryan Toby, senior academic achievement in wildlife and fisheries, were unavailable for the photograph.

### SPRING 2002 GRADUATES

A special reception and ceremony honoring spring 2002 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

**Joe Snider (forestry, 1973)** lives in Coffeetown.

**Randy Pope (forestry, 1974)** is a resident of Meridian. He and wife Angie have three children, Matt, Jodi, and Savannah. Randy is self-employed.

**David Barge (forestry, 1976)** is with Barge Forest Products Co. He and wife Yvonne live in Macon.

**Stephen A. Services (forestry, 1976)** lives in Homer, N.Y., with wife Gail. He is employed by Gutchess Lumber Co.

**Stephen M. Butler (forestry, 1977)** is president of TimberCorp Inc., a full service consulting forestry firm. He and wife Beth Barksdale Butler live in Brandon with daughter Elizabeth.

**Jim Walley (forestry, 1977)** is the head of the Jones Junior College forestry program. He and wife Debbie live in Ellisville. Jim's son Jamie is a 2001 graduate of the CFR and is a contractor providing forestry services.

**Roy E. Trask Jr. (wildlife and fisheries, 1979)** has worked for 22 years with James M. Vardaman and Co. Inc. where he is district manager. He and wife Charlotte live in Shreveport, La. They have two children, Kim and Trey, three grandsons and two granddaughters. Roy and Charlotte say they are enjoying their grandchildren and traveling.

**Catalino A. Blanche (forestry, 1981)** is the national program leader for the USDA CSREES, administering \$22 million a year in Cooperative Forestry Grants and \$5.7 million in Wood Utilization Research Grants. Catalino and wife Fe Celeste live in Washington, D.C. They have two children Kathryn, a 2000 MSU graduate, and Kathleen.

**Mark Gibson (forestry, 1981)** is at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola,

Fla. He and wife Candace Gibson live in Cantonment with son Cory, 13. Mark also has a 23-year-old son, Philip.

**Kathleen H. Kennedy (forestry, 1984)** lives in Potts Camp with her husband Joe and stepson Joshua.

**Keith Weaver (wildlife and fisheries, 1986)** is the refuge manager of the Nulhegan Basin Division, USFWS in Island Pond, Vt. He completed his Ph.D. in ecology at the University of Tennessee in 1999, studying Louisiana black bear ecology and management. He is married to Tamara C. Weaver.

**David B. Smith (forestry, 1988)** works for Bowater Inc. He and wife Cheryl have two children, Chris and Sarah, and live in Cleveland, Tenn.

**Donna Oberholtzer (forestry, 1989)** works for Tate Lumber Co./T. Cattle Co. She and husband Neal have two children, Emily and Matthew, and live in Skipwith, Va.

**Keith Bain (forestry, 1990)** currently is employed with Lewis Brothers Lumber Co. in forestry management. He and wife Donna have a toddler, Carrington Davis.

**Hongshu Guan (forestry, 1991)** is employed by Harvard University. He and wife Yulin Liu have one child, Clavin X., and live in Norwood, Mass.

**Jason Spigner (forestry, 1991)** is with Spigner Inc. in Fulton. He and wife Samantha have two children, Joshua and Rachel.

**Jeff Rogers (forestry, 1995)** works as a procurement manager for Georgia Pacific Corp. He and wife Karen have two children, Chandler and Peyton, and live in Brookhaven.

**Jason B. Cutshall (forestry, 1996 and 1999)** is the executive director for the Mississippi Loggers Association.

**David A. Edwards Jr. (wildlife and fisheries, 1996)** is a wildlife

consultant/biologist with the Gulf States Paper Corp.—Westervelt Wildlife Services in Demopolis, Ala. He previously was a wildlife biologist for the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. David and wife Heather have one son, Clayton.

**Mary O. Owen (forestry, 1996)** works for the Florida Division of Forestry. She is a forester at Tate's Hell State forest in Franklin County.

**Kurt Michael Hodges (wildlife and fisheries, 1998)** is working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as the assistant leader of the small game management section. Kurt and wife Beth live in Tallahassee.

**Gregory Warren (forestry, 1998)** is working for the USDA Forest Service as a forest technician. Greg and wife Andrea live in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

**Michael Boler (forestry, 1998)** works for International Paper Co. in Natchez.

**Aprille Barrett Cook (forestry, 1998)** was promoted to management forester and transferred to Demopolis, Ala. She was married to Chris Cook last fall.

**Kimberly L. Sykes (forestry, 1998)** is employed as a forester with International Paper Co. and resides in Fordyce, Ark.

**Braxton Rushing (forestry, 1999)** is working for J.C. Penney Co. as a senior department manager in Slidell, La.

**Stephen Bass (forestry, 1999)** is working for Amerisafe Inc. as an account executive. He lives in Starkville.

**Michael Williams (forestry, 2001)** is working as a soil scientist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Ellisville.



# 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](mailto:mmontgomery@cfr.msstate.edu).

As part of the College of Forest Resources newsletter, the alumni updates help keep us all connected. Please 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

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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### Become a member of the CFR Alumni Society

The CFR Alumni Society helps support the College of Forest Resources. Although we work cooperatively with the MSU Alumni Association, we are an entirely separate organization. To be a full-fledged member of the CFR Alumni Society, you must pay \$25 dues annually. These dues are separate from any paid to the MSU Alumni Association. The alumni association does not collect dues for the CFR Alumni Society. CFR society dues are valid from October 1 to September 30. If you would like to support the CFR Alumni Society, you may remit this form with a \$25 check or money order. You do not, however, have to be a member of the CFR Alumni Society to have your news included in "Alumni Updates."

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

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## Check out these new publications on our Web site

### Financial maturity concepts with application to three hardwood timber stands

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

*In this report we summarize basic financial maturity concepts from the applied standpoint of a forester or other timber management professional. Our intent is to help foresters and others understand the background and usefulness of financial maturity concepts. The concepts can be applied to many types of existing stands to determine the optimal age of final harvest from a financial standpoint.*

### Forestry and forest products: The impact of the industry on the Mississippi economy—An input-output analysis. Based on 1998 data.

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/foinms2.pdf>

*The forest products industry includes four main sectors: logging, solid wood products, pulp and paper, and wood furniture manufacturing. This study evaluates the importance of the forest products industry to the state's economy.*

### Values, attitudes, and perceptions of forest industry constituency groups

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

*An industry-funded study identified the values, attitudes, and perceptions of constituents regarding forestry and the forest industry in Mississippi. These constituencies included teachers, public agencies, loggers, non-industrial private forest landowners, conservation/environmental groups, bankers, and legislators. The study also investigated the appropriate communication methods and messages preferred by each constituency group when receiving information about forestry.*

### Economic Choice for Hardwood Sawmill Operations

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

*The Economic Choice for Hardwood Sawmill Operations (ECHO) is a software package developed to help analyze the economic benefit of installing thinner-kern and higher-accuracy sawing machines.*

### Innovate or Evaporate: Business concept innovation in the furniture industry in the age of information

<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/business2.pdf>

*Today, perhaps the most important competition is among "business concepts" – and innovative business concepts are fast evolving in many industries as a result of new information technologies.*

### A new nest box for wood ducks

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

*Nest boxes, which usually are made of wood, have been used widely for more than 60 years to establish and increase wood duck populations throughout the United States and Canada. It is believed that nest boxes are especially important for wood duck production in Mississippi and other southeastern states because suitable natural cavities are scarce.*

# PUBLICATIONS