

mississippi state university

College of Forest Resources

alumni newsletter



Spring 2008



Dorman Lake RENOVATIONS



DEAN'S comments

This year is already looking great, with so many accomplishments for the college and university. The football team won a bowl game, the women's softball team is ranked and the basketball team won the SEC West and is going to "dance" in the NCAA tournament. The Forest and Wildlife Research Center funding was restored to 2001 levels. The forestry and forest products curricula were accredited for another 10 years. The college saw an 11 percent increase in enrollment in fall 2007, which was the greatest percentage change on campus.

The tide has turned for the College of Forest Resources and everything is looking great thanks, in large part, to the support and confidence provided by our strong alumni base. Your support is critical to our success.

The faculty, staff and students continue to be committed in delivering as promised, addressing the needs of the people and resources served. However, our work is not complete, and we need your continued help and support to accomplish our mission and vision.

Speaking of vision, I want to share with you some exciting news. We recently completed a visioning process. A team of faculty and staff—the visioning task force—recently completed a vision statement for the college and center. The task force solicited input from everyone in the college. The result is a vision statement in which everyone has ownership. Please take a moment to read the vision statement on page 13. It clearly states who we are, what our priorities include, and values for those we serve.

Also scholarships, endowments and properties are increasing for the college. Two new properties have been added to the Bulldog Forest, increasing the acreage by 500. One of the gifts was given by department head Bruce Leopold. Also, a new commercial is airing on the MSU baseball radio network for the Bulldog Forest. We are very hopeful this advertisement will generate increased interest in the program. New scholarships have been added to the college, however, we need additional resources to attract the best and brightest students. We are going to soon launch a scholarship campaign. As you know, tuition is increasing and many of the students cannot afford the rising costs. Please consider how you might help in generating needed funds for our students. Any size gift can help students discover their passions.

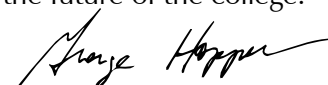
We have been working on recruiting new students to the program. We hired a recruiter, Tedrick Ratcliff, a forestry alumnus and enthusiastic young man. If you know of a young person interested in natural resources, please contact Tedrick (tratcliff@cfr.msstate.edu). Don't forget your own family members who may have an interest in following your footsteps. Remember the saying, "An acorn never falls far from the tree."

The Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show is scheduled this year for June 6 and 7, 2008. This show is the biggest in the region and is becoming one of the biggest equipment shows in the nation. Numerous continuing education opportunities are planned this year. We will host an alumni social on Friday night at the newly renovated Dorman Lake Cabin. Please attend the equipment show and the transformed cabin.

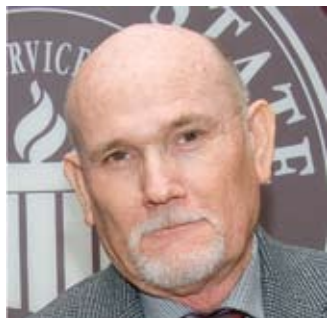
We need your help this year during the spring legislative session. We are asking for a small increase this year for FWRC to maintain our growth. Last year's funding provided graduate assistantships and helped with rising utility costs, salary increases and increased research support. Any assistance you can provide in Jackson will be appreciated.

I am excited to announce that an extension program has been established in the department of forest products. This is great news for Mississippi, the forest products industry and homeowners.

There is so much good news, please read the details in this newsletter. I hope to see you on campus or out in the state soon. We appreciate your support and welcome your participation in the future of the college.


George M. Hopper
Dean

2007 Alumni Fellow John Hodges



The College of Forest Resources 2007 Alumni Fellow is John D. Hodges of Ashland. A 1959 forestry graduate, Hodges was one of the first students to earn a bachelor's degree

from the then-young School of Forestry. Hodges holds master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Washington. He joined the faculty in 1975 and taught silviculture and conducted research in the areas of hardwood silviculture, physiology, ecology, and wetland restoration until 1996. Hodges retired from Mississippi State and went to Anderson-Tully where he led the company's land management program. In 2000, Hodges returned to MSU to run the hardwood forestry extension program.

2008 Alumnus of the Year Jim Tidwell



James H. "Jim" Tidwell of Frankfort, Ky., is the 2008 Alumnus of the Year for the College of Forest Resources. A 1987 doctoral graduate in aquaculture, wildlife and fisheries, he is aquaculture division chair at Kentucky State University's Aquaculture Research Center. Tidwell received a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a master's from Samford University. As coordinator for aquaculture programs, Tidwell is responsible for oversight of all aquaculture programs (research, extension and education) at KSU. This includes coordination of schedules, allocation of physical resources, and maintenance and operations of the Aquaculture Research Center (ARC).



Three College of Forest Resources faculty members were honored recently with outstanding achievement awards. Receiving the 2007 awards are (l-r) wildlife and fisheries professor and interim associate dean Richard M. Kaminski for service, wildlife and fisheries professor Craig Tucker for research, and forestry professor Robert Parker for teaching.

Accolades



Mississippi State University College of Forest Resources animal care coordinator Steven Tucker (l) and building supervisor Curtis Griffin recently were honored with 2007 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards for outstanding service. Tucker, an MSU alumnus, cares for native wildlife at the Wildlife and Fisheries Research and Educational Facility, providing 3,000 educational tours annually. Griffin has been at the university for 29 years and oversees maintenance and upkeep for more than 200,000 square feet of CFR space.

Dorman Lake renovation



The forest facilities staff has completed the renovation of the Dorman Lake cabin. The newly renovated facility has seating for approximately 54 during classroom style activities, and a dry erase board with projector screen is permanently installed on the wall.

The kitchen facility has a freezer, a refrigerator, two gas stove/range oven combinations, a commercial dish washing sink, and a 55-pound ice maker.

Thanks to a generous donation by the CFR alumni society, two five-ton air conditioning systems keep the cabin cool in the summer. The fireplace provides ample heat in the winter.

A major portion of the renovation entailed the addition of a new bathroom facility attached to the lodge. A covered walkway joins the newly completed bathroom facility with the old lodge. Additionally, a 12-by-four-foot cooking grill with cover also was built adjacent to the lodge. This should provide capacity for approximately 150 to 200 steaks to be grilled simultaneously.

Reservations may be made by both internal and external groups by contacting the Forest Operations/Facilities Maintenance office at 662-325-2191.



PROFESSORSHIPS established



Warren S. Thompson, left, congratulates H. Michael Barnes, recipient of the Warren S. Thompson Professor of Wood Science and Technology honor.

H. Michael Barnes, a 37-year faculty member, is the new Warren S. Thompson Professor of Wood Science and Technology. A Baytown, Texas, native, Barnes holds bachelor's and master's degree from Louisiana State University and a doctorate from the State University of New York. He is a Fellow of the Society of Wood Science and Technology and a Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science. He has received numerous awards for research and service including the university's Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award, the American Wood-Preservers' Association Award of Merit, Forest Products Society's Gottschalk Award, and Railway Tie Association Award of Merit. Barnes currently serves as president of the Forest Products Society.



L. Wes Burger Jr., left, receiving the Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries honor, as presented by Arner.

Wes Burger, a 15-year faculty member, is the new Dale H. Arner Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries. Burger holds a bachelor's degree from Murray (Ky.) State University and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Missouri. He has been studying bobwhite quail ecology for 20 years and is considered a national expert on increasing habitat for popular game birds in agricultural landscapes. His research began in the Missouri prairies and row crops that bobwhite call home. His efforts recently earned him the Southeast Quail Study Group Annual Award. He currently coordinates the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Northern Bobwhite Habitat Restoration Project that supports research and demonstration projects.



Stephen C. Grado, left, recipient of the George L. Switzer Professor of Forestry, standing with dean George Hopper.

Stephen C. Grado, a 13-year faculty member, is the new George L. Switzer Professor of Forestry. A Teaneck, N.J., native, Grado holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, as well as bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. A national expert on multi-use forestry, including contributions from wildlife economics, recreation, and urban and community forestry, Grado has received numerous awards, including the Gamma Sigma Delta honor society's research award of merit and an MSU Office of Research award for outstanding research. Grado also serves as the undergraduate coordinator in the department of forestry.

FORESTRY

news



Title III forestry extension and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center designed a poster to celebrate 60 years of forestry in Lafayette County. Standing next to the nine-foot display is John Arachea, retired forest service employee, and Jon Roscoe, county extension director. Lafayette County was once known as the Reforestation Capital of the World.

Cogongrass marches across Mississippi

A recently completed study has found that disturbances, like the periodic logging associated with normal forestry practices, increase the growth and spread of cogongrass.

Dan Prevost, a master's student working under associate professor Don Grebner, found that once the cogongrass has invaded a stand, forest regeneration is difficult.

"Cogongrass essentially prevents regeneration by seed and greatly increases seedling mortality," Prevost said.

Prevost's study was conducted at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County from 2004 to 2006. He set up treatment sites and mimicked the types

of disturbances associated with normal logging practices. When compared with control sites that had no disturbance, Prevost found a significant increase in spread within the treatment sites in less than one year.

"One of the most important revelations of this study was the correlation between spread and underground rhizome biomass," Prevost said. "The leaves of cogongrass may not be able to break through in an established stand, but the roots are spreading underneath the stand from the edge the whole time."

Once disturbances like setting up logging decks or roads have occurred, those rhizomes shoot

up tillers and the patch spreads. Salvage logging following Hurricane Katrina probably increased the spread of cogongrass in South Mississippi.

"For affected landowners, the need to extract storm-damaged timber to offset financial losses simply outweighed the risk of spreading cogongrass," Prevost said.

Herbicides give some control, but they are not sufficient alone and should be combined with burning, deep disking, mowing and replanting other grasses.

Small landowners can seek help from the Mississippi Bureau of Plant Industry, which offers enough herbicide to treat up to 25 acres.

MSU researchers focus on impact of state bird-watching revenue

More than 71 million Americans actively participate in bird watching, spending some \$45 million annually on the sport.

Unfortunately, Mississippi seems to be flying under the bird-watching radar. The Magnolia State ranks 45th in income realized from the recreational activity considered both a hobby and sport.

In an effort to help move—maybe even fly—the state up the list, forestry scientists are determining the best methods for increasing state revenues from birding-related activities. Initially, they are giving special attention to areas along the Mississippi River.

“The Mississippi River and its 30-million-acre floodplain form a vital flyway for migratory birds and provide opportunities for anyone who enjoys bird watching,” said forestry professor Steve Grado. “The Great River Birding Trail, named for the federally designated scenic drive called the Great River Road, consists of more than 2,000 miles along the river from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.”

Grado, a natural resource economist, said bird-watching sites have been established for 1,366 miles along both sides of the river from its headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minn., to the confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Ill.

“The next step in completing the trail is to extend it along both sides of the lower Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico,” he said.

Officials of Audubon Mississippi and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified about 300 Mississippi watch sites and located bird species of interest. Two-thirds of the sites already are open to the public, with about 5 percent situated on private lands.

“By estimating potential impacts of the Great River Birding Trail, we hope to show private landowners the value of allowing bird watching on their lands,” Grado said.

Assisting him with the study is research associate Marcus Measells.

Accolades

Susan Brooks has joined the forestry department as an administrative assistant.



Susan Brooks

Stephen Dicke, professor, received the Outstanding Youth Forestry Leadership Award from the Mississippi Forestry Association. Dicke also received the District Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America.



Stephen Dicke

James Henderson joined the forestry faculty as an assistant professor. His research interests are forest economics and management



James Henderson

Glenn Hughes, professor, received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Hughes also received a Partnership Award from the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.



Glenn Hughes

John Kushla, assistant professor, received the 2007 Tree Farm Leadership Award from the Mississippi Forestry Association.



John Kushla

Associate professor Andy Londo received a gold award for radio and a bronze award for refereed journal from the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals.



Andy Londo

Ian A. Munn, professor, is a new Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.



Ian Munn

Tim Traugott, professor, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mississippi Society of American Foresters.



Tim Traugott

FOREST PRODUCTS

news



MSU forest products research associate Brian Lindsey (l) steadies a sample of termite-devastated wood for videographer Clay Elber of Highnoon Entertainment. Elber is collecting footage for "Deconstruction," a new series airing on the Do-It-Yourself television network. The show's subtitle is "The science behind home improvements." MSU scientists are part of a national effort seeking innovative techniques to control the voracious pests.

Katrina still impacts state's forest industry

Part of the damage after Hurricane Katrina roared ashore was five million acres of broken timber. The U.S. Forest Service estimated that the volume of damaged wood across the Southeast was enough to build 800,000 single-family homes.

Forest products researchers are measuring the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the structure, performance, capacity, and future of the region's lumber industry.

"Following Hurricane Katrina, many off-the-cuff observations were made about the regional lumber industry, but tangible data was lacking," said graduate student Thomas McConnell. Through a survey of lumber mills, McConnell is

clarifying many aspects of Katrina's impact.

"Past research conducted on natural disasters in the South has focused on quantifying the damage to the timber supply itself," McConnell explained. "But production mills must have timber that is appropriate, available for harvest, affordable and accessible to sustain production."

McConnell surveyed 144 mills in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama to evaluate Katrina's impacts.

The survey showed lumber production was significantly and negatively influenced by Hurricane Katrina. Some mills reduced average production up to 15 percent. The

storm's impact was felt on local markets as almost 3 percent of the mills shut down following Katrina.

"Mill type and location were not significant indicators of lost production," McConnell said.

The test of the survival for lumber manufacturing in Mississippi and Alabama is not over yet.

A "letdown" phase is setting in following the initial flooding of the market with salvage timber. Finished product inventories are climbing as prices drop dramatically.

All these factors, combined with the increase in foreign competition, have led the Southern Forest Products Association to predict a second consecutive year of declining lumber production.



MSU house raising a success

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators worked Saturday, February 9, on the research and demonstration house being built on the Mississippi State campus.

The house, located on Blackjack Road in Starkville, is a cooperative project involving several MSU units, including the departments of forest products, civil engineering, landscape architecture, and the School of Architecture. The MSU units are working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory.

Students from forest products, forestry, wildlife and fisheries, architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture were on site to participate in the construction process.

"When the Southern Climatic Research Team was formed, our goal was to demonstrate how the various disciplines could come together to solve climate-related housing construction problems endemic to the Deep South," Lewis explained. Now the students are seeing this firsthand through this project, he added.

The Southern climate offers many challenges, including high heat, humidity, decay fungi, mold, high-wind events, and a variety of insects that includes beetles and termites.

"The idea is to make sure newly constructed homes in this part of the country have a chance of surviving to a ripe old age," said Terry Amburgey, forest products professor. "What we are trying to do is intelligently look at the climate we're dealing with and determine what works and what doesn't work."

Funds for the construction of the house have been provided by the U.S. Forest Service, the Herrin Foundation and Osmose Co. Material donations also have been received from Shuqualak Lumber Co., J.F. Day and Sons, TrimJoist, Arch Chemicals, Pella Corp., Louisiana Pacific Corp., VOBB Concrete Blocks, and Anderson-Tully Company.

Accolades

Michael Barnes, professor, is a new Fellow of the Society of Wood Science and Technology.



David Jones has joined the department as an assistant extension professor. Jones earned his doctorate from University of Georgia and served as a post doctoral associate at Virginia Tech. His research interests include wood quality and rapid assessment techniques of wood properties.

Rubin Shmulsky was named department head effective April 1, pending formal approval by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning.



Shmulsky, whose research interests include the drying and mechanics of wood and wood products, has served the department as interim head since May 1. He was previously employed as an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. Shmulsky holds a bachelor's degree in building materials and wood technology from the University of Massachusetts and master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

news



Wildlife and fisheries student Jennifer Chastant eases her way through nests of double-crested cormorants at Lake Woods Island in Kenora, Ontario. By understanding their reproductive rate and migratory patterns, better computer models can be developed that will allow scientists to keep their populations under control. Chastant devotes most of her time to tallying bird numbers, measuring eggs, recording banding data, and photographing seasonal changes in their plumage.

Landowners find value in their own backyards

Some housing prices are sagging, but Mississippi landowners may need to look no further than their backyards to find hidden property value, according to a recent Mississippi State study.

The study found that properties throughout the state with outdoor recreational opportunities increased in value, particularly in the Mississippi Delta. The results indicated that recreational uses increased land prices by an average of \$333 per acre or 36 percent of the property value.

MSU scientists worked on the study with the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

"We surveyed appraisers representing 100 properties totaling about 33,000 acres," said Daryl Jones, associate professor in wildlife and fisheries.

The total sales value of the properties with recreational opportunities was more than \$41 million. Appraisers reported that the sales value of the same properties without recreational uses would have been about \$31 million.

"Recreational opportunities like hunting, fishing, camping and bird watching, brought an additional \$10 million to the state's economy in 2006," Jones said.

The most desired characteristics were bottomland hardwood forests,

mixed pine-hardwood forests and wildlife supplemental food plots.

"The findings indicate that land buyers are seeking these forest types and are willing to pay higher property prices to acquire them for wildlife-related recreation," Jones said. "Also, properties that included specific management for wildlife produced higher sales revenue."

Important recreational uses on these lands included hunting, off-road vehicle access, horseback riding, and wildlife watching, Jones added. Those wanting to hunt white-tailed deer or lease the property to deer hunters bought 93 percent of properties. Rabbit, wild turkey, waterfowl, squirrel,

The Wildlife and Fisheries Intergenerational Summer Camp will be offered twice this year. The camp dates are June 1-5 and July 6-10. Contact Diane Weeks at 662.325.3174 or dweeks@ext.msstate.edu to register.

mourning dove, and bobwhite quail populations also were selling points.

The survey looked at lands purchased for recreational use from 2002 to 2005. Appraisers were asked to report on characteristics of the properties, to estimate the value of the properties without recreational uses and to report the selling price of the properties.

"Seventy percent of the properties were in the Delta," Jones said. "Revenues from hunting leases are usually greater in this region compared to other regions of the state."

The next phase of the study will include examining regional differences in property valuation, Jones added. Scientists also plan to offer formal training for rural land appraisers and financial lenders in property valuation related to potential recreational uses.

"This will include the value of game species present, wildlife habitat types and quality, and other indicators that create quality outdoor recreation," Jones said.

The study, "Land Valuation Increases from Recreational Opportunity: A Study of Mississippi Rural Land Sales," is available online at <http://scafwa.org/proceedings.htm>.



Steve Demarais



Bronson Strickland



Kevin Hunt



Don Jackson

Accolades



Jeanne Jones



Rick Kaminski



Bruce Leopold



Jim Miller

Steve Demarais, professor, and Bronson Strickland, assistant professor, were awarded the best peer-reviewed publication award and the best technical publication award at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Associate professor Kevin M. Hunt received the university diversity award.

Don Jackson, professor, was awarded the American Fisheries Society 2007 Distinguished Service Award. Jackson was honored for contributions of time and energy spent restoring professional capacity following the 2005 hurricanes.

Jeanne Jones, associate professor, and co-authors Dale Arner, Jarrod Fogarty, Jimmy Taylor, and Dave Godwin were awarded the best wildlife research report at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Rick Kaminski, professor and interim associate dean, was named a Fellow of The Wildlife Society. Kaminski also was named in Outdoor Life magazine 25. The distinction recognizes leaders, innovators, conservationists and unsung heroes who have made major contributions to hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports.

Bruce Leopold, department head, recently was elected as The Wildlife Society's vice president. He moves to the top administrative office of the 10,000-member international organization in 2009.

Jim Miller, retired professor, received the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award at the annual meeting of The Wildlife Society. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the society.

COLLEGE news



Tedrick Ratcliff, CFR alumnus, has been hired as the new college recruiter. The college recently has designed designed brochures and displays to assist with recruiting. Please help us recruit new students into the program. If you know of a group or event in which the CFR can recruit, please contact Ratcliff at 662.325.0855 or tratcliff@cfr.msstate.edu.

A new jobs Web site in the College of Forest Resources makes finding a job and posting a job a little easier for students, alumni and industry. Just go online to www.cfr.msstate.edu/jobs. All jobs posted are subject to a review process before they are posted. There are currently 92 jobs available on the site. Please consider posting your next job on the jobs database Web site.





In Memory of Bess Davis Bragg

November 6, 1934–September 1, 2007

Bess Davis Bragg passed away on September 1, 2007, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Bess worked for the college for 32 years. During her tenure, she served as assistant to the head of wildlife and fisheries and as senior accountant records assistant for the department, and the dean's office in the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife

Research Center. After her retirement in 2001, she worked part time for the department of forest products. She is survived by her husband, Bobby Bragg; three sons, Bob Bragg of Birmingham, Ala., Dave Bragg of Eupora and Bill Bragg of Baton Rouge, La.; and four grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson.

Natural Resources Summer Camp

The natural resources summer camp is set for June 1-5. Two young women from the Delta need scholarships for camp this year. The tuition is \$150 per student. If you would like to provide scholarships for these students, please contact Patsy Foster at 662.325.5548 or pfoster@cfr.msstate.edu.



A Visioning Task Force was established to develop a concise statement describing the vision for CFR/FWRC. This process was an inclusive process which afforded everyone an opportunity to provide input regarding their ideas and values on who we are, what we do, and to what we aspire.. The task force surveyed faculty and staff and facilitated focus sessions to further refine the collective vision statement. The task force was chaired by Ben West and other members of the team included Steve Grado, Robert Grala, Rubin Shmulsky, Susan Diehl, Karen Brasher, Jeff Little, Marcus Measells, and Jimmy Avery. The vision statement is below.

An academic community dedicated to the conservation and utilization of forest and other natural resources through integrated programs of teaching, research, extension/outreach, and service.

We (faculty and staff of the College of Forest Resources) promote, support and enable the management, conservation, and utilization of forest and other natural resources to benefit the stakeholders of Mississippi, the nation and the world. As a comprehensive and diverse community of learning, research, extension/outreach, and service, we continually strive to collaborate and share ideas and applications as a synergistic collectivity with the highest of professional and ethical standards. We provide our students, citizens of the state and other stakeholders with opportunities to discover knowledge and develop skills needed for productive and satisfying lives. Through our activities, and those of our graduates, we aim to improve and sustain economic, social and environmental well-being.



DEVELOPMENT

news

Department head invests in education

Bruce Leopold, head of the university's wildlife and fisheries department in the College of Forest Resources, is one Mississippi State faculty member who believes in giving back to the institution.

For a number of years, Leopold has consistently supported the university through financial commitments. The reason he gives is quite simple – the 20-year faculty veteran says he's reciprocating the commitment Mississippi State has made in him.

"MSU and its administration welcomed me into its fold from the first day I walked into my office and has continued with that level of support. My professional development as a research scientist, then as department head since 2000, is because of the tremendous support I received from MSU," Leopold said.

A recent gift of property from Leopold – approximately 140 acres in Noxubee County – will become part of Mississippi State's Bulldog Forest program, which allows landowners to create a lasting heritage by giving land to the College of Forest Resources. The Bulldog Forest properties are used as living laboratories in which forest management practices provide teaching, research and demonstration opportunities for students of all ages.

The land holds special meaning for Leopold. "There is something magical each time I walk on it, and I realize that it belongs to me. Also, land is one commodity that is limited on this planet, but it continually produces products such as wildlife and timber," he explained.

"I know the College of Forest Resources will take good care of the land and will enjoy the income it will generate through its natural resources many, many years after I pass on," Leopold said. "It's a way of

ensuring that groups of young professionals will benefit from my good fortune and success as a wildlife biologist, and it is the one way I can return something to an institution that I love deeply."

Future earnings from the property will support an endowed scholarship for wildlife and fisheries majors. Additional proceeds will endow the Leopold Fund for Excellence which may support endowed positions, scholarships and fellowships, faculty development, equipment, and other enhancements within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Leopold, a predator ecology specialist, was honored with the outstanding alumnus award of the University of Arizona's School of Renewable Resources, where he completed his doctorate. He holds a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a master's from Mississippi State. A longtime Wildlife Society member, he will serve as the 2009 president for the international organization.

There are numerous options for supporting the College of Forest Resources. For more information, contact Jeff Little, the college's development director, at jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu or 662.325.8151.



Grow a Legacy
BULLDOG FOREST
Mississippi State University

Creating leaders, one student at a time

One young man traveled more than 900 miles, while the other traveled 90, following their dreams at Mississippi State.

Mitch Weegman, a native of Winona, Minn., found a passion for waterfowl hunting and the outdoors at an early age. His father took him and his fraternal twin to the woods at the age of 3.

James Callicut, a native of New Albany, developed an interest in waterfowl when his uncles took him hunting and instilled in him an appreciation and respect for natural resources.

While these young men are from different parts of the country, they both love waterfowl and are recipients of the Scenic Homes—Dr. Richard M. Kaminski Scholarship in Waterfowl and Wetlands Conservation.

"This scholarship allows us to pursue students who aspire to become waterfowl biologists and continue engaging them in their passion for waterfowl and wetlands ecology and management," said Kaminski, wildlife and fisheries

professor. "The students we recruit with these scholarships are already leaders in waterfowl and show tremendous promise for a productive career in waterfowl. This is important for the 1.5 million waterfowl hunters in the country."



Mitch Weegman, left, and James Callicut

For example, Weegman, an MSU track member, conducted research during junior high and high school.

"In seventh grade, I began conducting waterfowl-related research projects for local, regional, state, national and international science competitions," Weegman said. "My brother and I teamed up and continued conducting research for six years. The science fairs

allowed me to fuse my passion for waterfowl with science. We were very fortunate to publish our recent findings on invertebrates consumed by lesser scaup in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*."

Weegman intends to become a waterfowl researcher and looks forward to studying waterfowl behavior on the wintering grounds of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Callicut is a duck call maker and avid waterfowl hunter. The senior wildlife science major is working on a duck call that soon may be patented.

"I am going to further my knowledge of waterfowl conservation with an upcoming graduate opportunity," Callicut said. "My long-term goal is to obtain a waterfowl biologist position."

Weegman and Callicut are rising stars in natural resource conservation, and scholarships helped make their success possible.

If you are interested in helping deserving young people, please contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151 or jlittle@cfr.msstate.edu.



An endowment in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center is assisting with the process of developing eco-friendly wood preservatives. Funded by a land gift from Harold C. and Claire Lucas, the endowment has been used to establish the Lucas Laboratory for Advanced Biodeterioration Research. The vision for the laboratory is to be a leading force in the development of environmentally friendly methods for understanding and controlling the biodeterioration of wood products. Through this endowment, scientists have the resources to study the complex process of wood biodeterioration. The result will be better ways to protect wood products. The lab also will study the positive side of wood decay processes.

STUDENT news



MSU President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong (l) congratulates (l-r) Mason Conley, Daniel Sanford, Blake Hamilton, Jonathan Ball, and CFR Dean George Hopper

CFR student heroes honored

Four Mississippi State students in the College of Forest Resources recently were honored for separate acts of off-campus heroism.

A ceremony was held on February 8 where the students were given an inscribed compass by CFR dean George Hopper.

MSU president Robert H. Foglesong congratulated the students in front of a packed house in Tully Auditorium of Thompson Hall on the MSU campus. Parents, victims, faculty, staff, and MSU administrators were on hand to celebrate the students' selfless acts.

Seniors Blake Hamilton, a forestry major from Theodore, Ala., and Jonathan Ball of Columbia, a wildlife and fisheries major,

were witnesses to a Jan. 8 head-on collision in Macon in which a passenger was thrown from the vehicle.

Hamilton, who had received CPR and first-aid training during an MSU forestry summer field program, found the victim to be choking. After rolling the man on his side, Hamilton provided comfort until medical assistance arrived.

Ball telephoned the local 911 emergency line and comforted a second individual who was pinned in a vehicle at the Noxubee County location.

In a separate incident three days earlier in Panola County, forestry freshman Daniel Sanford and Mason Conley, a wildlife and

fisheries sophomore, assisted two hunters in distress. The Sardis residents came to the aid of a man and his son who had been waterfowl hunting on a body of water when their boat hit a stump and began sinking.

Conley jumped into the cold water, rescued the drowning hunter and pulled him to shore. Sanford telephoned the local U.S. Army Corp of Engineers office for assistance and then drove the father and son to an area where they could be airlifted to a medical center.

All of the victims survived their life-threatening encounters.



Introducing the graduating classes of December 2007.

Wildlife and fisheries graduate students Heath Hagy and Jessica Tegt have planned the first Southeastern Natural Resources Graduate Student Symposium at Mississippi State. Scheduled for March 26-28, the symposium will provide a unique outlet for graduate and upper level undergraduate researchers to share research, develop professionally, meet prospective employers, and discover the great resources at Mississippi State University.

The symposium will feature workshops in communication, scientific writing and mixed model analysis while featuring a job fair where students can meet with potential employers, symposium sponsors and their peer researchers.

The symposium will include keynote presentations by distinguished individuals from the fields of natural resources and conservation.



Accolades

A doctoral candidate in the department of forestry is the first MSU recipient of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's STAR Fellowship. Joshua P. Adams of Ruston, La., is among 65 graduate students named to the prestigious Science to Achieve Results Fellows Program. His award begins with the 2007-08 academic year and extends for the next three years.

Katie Edwards, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received the best student poster award at the research annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Competing among a field of 13, the Chantilly, Va., native's presentation illustrated amphibians' use of man-made wetlands and stream-connected floodplain pools found on public forest lands of North Mississippi.

Heath Hagy, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, won best student oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Hagy's presentation was winter food abundance, depletion and waterfowl use in managed moist-soil wetlands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

The Mississippi State University Society of American Foresters Student Chapter won second place in the SAF Outstanding Student Chapter Award competition for the 2006-2007 academic year. In addition, the Mississippi State University SAF Student Chapter won first place in the Student Chapter Web site contest. Congratulations go to our students and their capable advisor, Donald Grebner!

ALUMNI

news

MSU alumnus selected Southern Regional Office director for Ducks Unlimited



Curtis Hopkins (wildlife and fisheries, 1971 and 1973) has been named director of the Southern Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited.

In his new position, Hopkins will lead all conservation programs across the 15 Southern states, serve as a member of the senior management team directing our conservation programs across the continent, and work closely with both field operations and development. Curtis will report directly to Dr. Alan Wentz, senior group manager for conservation.

Hopkins has worked for Ducks Unlimited for 26 years, including 10 years in field operations and 16 years with conservation. Curtis served as regional director and senior regional director for North Mississippi and led Mississippi to achieve its first \$1 million mark during that period.

During his tenure in conservation, Hopkins led the development of private lands initiatives, which resulted in more than 5,000 participating landowners who conserved nearly 900,000 acres on farms and other

properties.

"Curtis has proven extremely effective at working with both public and private partners and his advice is often sought by both state and federal agencies on numerous matters in conservation," said Rick Kaminski, close personal friend and interim associate dean. "Throughout his career with DU, Curtis has worked on major gift fundraising, including developing proposals, soliciting gifts and working as part of the major gift team."

Before joining DU in 1981, Hopkins worked as an assistant ranger and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State and a doctoral degree from Texas A&M University. He has published extensively on the ecology and management of waterfowl and wild turkeys.

In 2006, Hopkins was named Alumni Fellow in the College of Forest Resources.

In 1999, The Wildlife Society awarded him the Jim McDonough Award for his outstanding professional contributions.

Hopkins replaces Ken Babcock, who served as director for 10 years.

West Fraser Inc. recently acquired 13 International Paper Company sawmills in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Since the acquisition, West Fraser has opened a corporate office for its U.S. operations, located in Memphis, Tenn. Adrian Blocker (forestry, 1979) is heading the division. Blocker received bachelor's degrees in forestry and general business administration and a MBA, all from Mississippi State. In 2003, he was named the CFR Alumnus of the Year.

Headquartered in Vancouver, B.C., West Fraser is an integrated forest products company that produces lumber, LVL, MDF, plywood, pulp, linerboard, kraft paper, and newsprint. West Fraser has manufacturing operations in British Columbia, Alberta and the southern United States.



Accolades

Dave Godwin (wildlife and fisheries, 1991) received the 2007 Outstanding Wildlife Biologist Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors.

Darren Miller (wildlife and fisheries, 1993 and 1997) is the incoming president of The Wildlife Society, Southeastern Section.

Philip Barbour (wildlife and fisheries, 2006) is president of The Wildlife Society, Mississippi Chapter.

Kathy Shelton (wildlife and fisheries, 2000) is president-elect of The Wildlife Society, Mississippi Chapter.

Mike Chamberlain (wildlife and fisheries, 1995 and 1999) is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Joe Woods (forestry 1963) was named North Zone Fishing Editor for the Texas Fish and Game Magazine.



In Memory



J. C. "Jack" Ainsworth Jr. (forestry, 1973)

J. C. "Jack" Ainsworth Jr., 58, died January 3, 2008, at his residence. An attorney, Ainsworth was an avid sportsman and enjoyed hunting and golf.

Curtis Dean Fulgham (forestry, 1957)

Curtis Dean Fulgham, 76, died Aug. 22, 2007, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle. Fulgham was born March 22, 1931. He was a veteran of the Korean War and a member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter. He retired from the Mississippi Forestry Commission in 1995.

Winston Garland Gatlin (forestry, 1980)

Winston Garland Gatlin, 61, of Sandersville, died Dec. 20, 2007, in his home. He served his country with distinction in Vietnam where he earned a purple heart and four bronze stars. He had more than 20 years combined military service and was retired from the Alabama Army National Guard. He was a career forester and a member of the Society of American Foresters. After serving as a timber buyer and owning his own consulting practice for a number of years, he became the city forester of Hattiesburg.

Lloyd Huguley (forestry, 1974)

Lloyd Huguley died July 6, 2007.

Robert J. "Pete" Miles (forestry, 1970)

Robert J. "Pete" Miles, 72, died Friday, November 30, 2007, at Orlando (Fla.) Regional Hospital due to a fall resulting in a brain injury. Miles was born on August 22, 1935. He was a longtime resident of Pulaski and Brandon. He served on the board of trustees of East Central Junior College. President of the Scott County Farm Bureau Association for 25 years, Miles retired after 40 years with the U.S. Army in 1995. He earned many awards during his military career, including the Mississippi Magnolia Metal for Meritorious Service, Sergeant Majors Award for being an honor graduate, Commendation Certificate for Military Achievement, Army Achievement Medal, and Mississippi Magnolia Cross.

Warren Miller (forestry, 1974)

Warren Edwin Miller, 55, died February 18, 2008, at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, La. He worked for Georgia Pacific for 32 years. He was a member of Mississippi Foresters Association and the Society of American Foresters. Miller was an elder at First Presbyterian Church.

ALUMNI updates

1950s

Larry Brewer (forestry, 1959) has recently married Peggy Gunter. Larry works for Mississippi Farm Bureau and Peggy works for Mississippi State Extension Service.

Charles Green (forestry, 1959) has been in the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. He had several infections and it has taken some time to find the right treatment. He's had to have his dialysis port moved to his neck. Please be sure to keep him and "Mrs. Eleanor" in your prayers and thoughts.

1960s

Walter B. Dennis (forestry, 1962; wildlife and fisheries, 1968) retired after 30 years with International Paper as a regional manager of forestry ecology. Dennis is now the owner and operator of a forestry and wildlife consulting firm in Natchez. He is also a real estate broker. Dennis and wife Marilou have eight children and 12 grandchildren.

Seth Dale Brumfield (forestry, 1963) retired in 2004 from Hood Industries. Brumfield and wife Bonnie are living in Laramie, Wy., and would love to hear from CFR alumni.

Gerald Moore (forestry, 1963) had knee replacement on January 3. Moore has been going through physical therapy three times a week. In February, he had prostate surgery. Mellen has been taking care of Moore, as well as taking care of their farm.

Larry Nix (forestry, 1967 and 1969) retired from Clemson Forestry this year after 34 years and will move to Georgia to be close to his children and grandchildren. He recently had triple bypass surgery and is doing great, almost back to where he was. He recently celebrated his 64th birthday. He and wife Joyce also recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

1970s

James T. "Jimmy" Green (forestry, 1970) and wife Judy are living in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Judy retired after 35 years as a school teacher. Jimmy is still working in private practice as a forestry consultant. They have three grandchildren.

Phil Adams (forestry, 1971) has retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as forester/environmental coordinator after 34 years of service. Adams has worked at five lake projects during his career with the corps and lived in Mississippi,

Arkansas, Alabama, and Georgia. He is finishing up at West Point Lake in LaGrange, Ga., which is near Atlanta. He and his wife plan to move to the Georgia mountains and spend more time with their two granddaughters, fish a lot more, and do some traveling.

Janet Malone Riordan (forestry, 1977) and husband Patrick recently moved to Vacaville, Calif. Their youngest son Sean is a sophomore and middle son Ryan is a freshman at Brevard College in North Carolina. Their oldest son Josh is on a ship in the Atlantic stopping at lots of European ports.

Donald Walker (wildlife and fisheries, 1977) and wife Susie are living in West Point.

1980s

Patrick Kraft (forestry, 1981) is living in East Bend, N.C. Kraft worked for the Mississippi Forestry Commission for seven years and then moved to Midlothian, Va., to work for Timberland Enterprises. In 1998, he was provided an opportunity to work for Osmose Utilities Services. He spent six years working out of the corporate office in Buffalo, N.Y., and then relocated to North Carolina in 2004 as the director of sales for the mid-Atlantic area. Kraft has been married for

ALUMNI updates

25 years to Donna Luke, who is originally from Clinton. The couple has three children: Daniel, 24 of West Seneca, N.Y.; Sara Marie, 19, a sophomore at UNC-Greensboro, and Caroline, 13 and in the eighth grade. They spend most of their time working on an old farmhouse and property in North Carolina, and very much enjoy the diversity of life in the Carolina's.

Terry D. Bates (wildlife and fisheries, 1982 and 1985) and wife Carol are living in Greenville. Bates is the supervisory fisheries biologist for the USDA/ARS Catfish Genetics Research Unit. They have two children, 20-year-old Terry Matthew and 17-year-old John Preston.

Danielle Lipe, daughter of **Beth Cole Lipe, MD (1984 forestry)** and **Jim Lipe (1980 forestry, 1983 wildlife and fisheries)**, is doing well after heart surgery. Beth is currently practicing medicine in Flora, MS with Flora Family Physicians. They deeply appreciate the prayers for their youngest daughter's health.

Stan L. Foster (wildlife and fisheries, 1985) and wife Sarah are living in Brookhaven. Stan is the president of State Bank and Trust.

Robert Nolan Smith (forestry, 1987) and wife Kristin are living in

Greensboro, N.C. Smith is a forest and wildlife biologist consultant. He and his wife recently had their first child, Annika Ingrid Smith, on July 13.

1990s

Stacy Kinard Combs (forestry, 1993) and husband Russell are living in Stanley, N.C.

Tonya Conner (forestry, 1996) recently married John R. Vots. They are living in Douglasville, Ga. She works for Hatton-Brown Publishers as an associate editor and as managing editor for Southern Loggin' Times magazine.

Courtney Hamby Altizer (forestry, 1997) and forestry research associate **Clay Altizer** are the proud parents of Cora Brice, born August 14.

Mary Love Mortimer Tagert (forest products, 1998) and husband Mike are the proud parents of Harlan Westbrook Tagert, born August 9.

2000s

Eric E. Clark III (forestry, 2001) is working for the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit as a QA/QC forester. He has been with the forest service since January 2002. He and his 2-year-old daughter

Kendal live in Laurel.

Clay Seale (forest products, 2001) and wife are the proud parents of Matthew Clayborn, born July 26. Seale is working as a quality engineer with Batesville Casket Company.

Matthew Raff (forestry, 2002) and his wife are the proud parents of Mary Emma, born August 14.

Brad Stombock (forest products, 2002) is working as an environmental specialist in the Pollution Prevention Program for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Stombock and wife Courtney have a little boy, Barrett Davis, born October 31, 2006. They are living in Quincy, Fla., which is 20 miles west of Tallahassee. Courtney recently joined Southern Scholarship Foundation as its chief development officer.

Bryan McElroy (forestry, 2004) and wife Sherra are the proud parents of Bryan Michael, their second child. Bryan was born on January 30. He was three months early, two pound, 15 ounces, and has a heart condition, so he stayed at the Arkansas Children's Hospital until April 11. He is now six months old, weighs 16 pounds and doing extremely well. His sister Hannah is 16 months old and is also doing very

ALUMNI updates

well. McElroy is the county forester over six counties in Arkansas.

Jason A. Kennan (wildlife and fisheries, 2004) is a farm bill biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Kennan graduated from the University of Georgia with a master's degree. He married fellow MSU graduate and current Vanderbilt Medical Center employee Katie. The Kennans live in Portland, Tenn., where they recently purchased their first home. No children yet, except for their horses.

Erin Netterville (wildlife and fisheries, 2007) is living in Centreville and working for the

Environmental Research Group.

Retired Faculty

Dale Arner has recovered from his minor stroke and is able to drive and enjoy life in Starkville. He remains active professionally and gave a keynote address on beaver management at an USDA meeting in Arizona in November. Not too bad for a man of 86 years.

Former faculty member, **F. Allen Barnes** is working for King & Spalding law firm in Atlanta, Ga. Barnes is a partner in the Environmental Division. Barnes taught forest policy and forest law at MSU. He left MSU to work for the

Environmental Protection Agency prior to becoming partner at King & Spalding.

T. Evan Nebeker recently retired from the MSU department of entomology. The Forestry Department is thankful that Nebeker will be teaching one last class this fall in forest pests, giving the entomology department time to find a suitable replacement.

Billy Watson is doing much better. He recently underwent a procedure for cancer and the results are promising. He thanks everyone for their prayers and expressions of concern.

ALUMNI society

The College of Forest Resources is hosting an alumni social at Dorman Lake Cabin during the Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show on June 6, 2008, from 6-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Funds generated will be used for scholarships. Plans for the 2009 Alumni Grand Reunion will be discussed during the social.



The CFR Alumni Society sponsored the Choctaw County forestry team. The team competed in the 4-H Forestry Judging competition at Club Congress at Mississippi State. The team placed second in the state. Also, three members of the forestry team competed and placed first at the Mid-South Fair in the Senior Forestry division.

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.

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 _____



JUNE 6-7, 2008

BIGGEST SHOW IN THE WOODS

JOHN W. STARR MEMORIAL FOREST

ALUMNI SOCIAL

JUNE 6, 2008

DORMAN LAKE CABIN

6-8 p.m.

\$15

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