



College of

Forest Resources

n e w s l e t t e r

SPRING 2002



Dr. Steve Demarais (M.S. '79, Ph.D. '84), associate professor and wildlife biologist, and graduate student Bronson Strickland of Athens, Ga., record measurements of a tranquilized deer's antlers at MSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Research and Educational Facility. Faculty members and graduate students have participated in a 20-year study to examine the genetic, nutritional, and environmental influences on deer antler growth. Results from these studies have influenced harvest regulations and deer management recommendations throughout the Southeast.

Dean's Comments

Dear alumni and friends,

On Feb. 5, I celebrated my first anniversary here at Mississippi State University as dean of the College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. It has been an interesting and exciting year. Many opportunities have come our way, and we have tried to catch the really good ones! I am even more convinced than I was a year ago that the window of opportunity for forest resources is wide open, and we must take advantage of this timing.

Granted, the U.S. and, specifically, the Mississippi economies are in a down cycle. In addition, the forest-based economy is down, but this is the time for our College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center to emerge as leaders. Another interesting factor in our favor is that Dr. Charles Lee has been appointed interim president of MSU. Dr. Lee was formerly dean of the then School of Forest Resources and most recently vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. He is a forester by training and is very familiar with our program. I expect that he will be a real friend of our college during his tenure as he was in the past. Please join me in congratulating him.

Well, there is "good news" and there is also "not-so-good news." First, I would like to share some of the good news with you. In fact, this entire issue of the College of Forest Resources Alumni Newsletter is filled with good news, but let me highlight some for you. Our academic programs continue to be strong and ones of which you can be proud. Our recruitment of good students continues to be successful but varies a bit by department, and the employment success rate of our graduates is quite good. Among awards we received, the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Wildlife

Society each won first place in national and regional competitions, respectively. Our faculty members continue to gain awards, many of which are listed in the newsletter. The center's research accomplishments are outstanding, with more than 300 current research studies. In FY2001, center scientists generated more than \$3.7 million in extramural funding. Some of their work even qualifies for patents. For example, Dr. Leonard Ingram of the Forest Products Department recently received a patent for his work related to the Southern pine beetle. It is his fourth patent. In the area of outreach and extension, college and center faculty and staff continue to work very diligently to see that the results of their own research, as well as the findings of others, are put into practice by foresters, wildlife and fisheries biologists, forest landowners, loggers, and others. Only by doing that can we help the economy of the state of Mississippi. In fact, much of our research, outreach, and extension are prompted by a strong desire to aid the sustainability of forest resources and economic development.

One of the interesting bits of good news has to do with forest-based economic development. In fact, the Mississippi Legislature created a Task Force for Forest-Based Economic Development in spring 2001. Rollin Turnage with Southern Lumber Co. and I served as task force co-leaders. There were 17 members and we met at least monthly and sometimes more to discuss and analyze factors affecting forest-based economic development in the state. Many experts were invited to come and talk with the task force about various issues. We presented our final report with five key recommendations to the Legislature in mid-December 2001. Those recommendations have been used to create Senate bill 2922, which is working its way through the Legislature. There is a lot of enthusiasm for what this can do



G. Sam Foster

for the economy of Mississippi.

Another area of good news has to do with the growing interest in support for the endowment for the College of Forest Resources. We received many gifts from our alumni and friends this year and we are so very grateful for them! These gifts will be used to support our academic, research, and outreach programs. Details on some of the larger gifts are given in this newsletter.

One of the most significant gifts was approximately \$1 million from Tom Harris in the form of timberland. Harris is one of our 1957 graduates and he gave timberland to us that has been in his family since the 1930s.

As I mentioned in the fall newsletter, I am placing a lot of emphasis on this type of support for the college. What better way to support the College of Forest Resources than by giving timberland to us for forest resource management? The forestland will be managed for education, research, and demonstration with the proceeds from management going to the college to support students, faculty, and our programs.

Well, I could continue with the good news, but as I said, this entire issue is filled with more good news.

Let me also share some of the not-

so-good news with you. Mainly, this type of news has to do with our budgets and the collateral damage from them. One of the results of the downturn in the Mississippi economy is that our budgets have been decreased significantly. I say budgets because we get two of them. One comes through MSU for the academic program, and the other comes directly from the Legislature for the Mississippi Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Both budgets have been cut significantly for two years and, from all indications, next year's budget will continue to decline. Since the beginning of FY2001, the FWRC lost 21.87 percent of its budget due to cuts to the base program and rescissions by the governor. On the first estimate of our budget for next year, we are facing another cut to our base program of 12.48 percent. We are trying to remain optimistic that the economy will turn around. In a state such as Mississippi, forest resources and related industries account for one of the largest sectors in the economy. We have many friends in the Legislature, and I am convinced that they are trying to help us. You can help us by gently reminding them of how important you feel that we are, too!

In summary, we have many good things for which to be thankful: a state that is overflowing with bountiful natural resources, a citizenry that values forest resources and, indeed, many of whom make a living from them, a world class university in MSU, top-notch faculty and staff, outstanding students, and great alumni. Please keep up your support. We need you!

G. Sam Foster

G. Sam Foster
Dean/Director

Cook named 2001 Alumni Fellow

As project manager for Weyerhaeuser Engineering Services, Sally Cook manages the construction of capital projects in wood products and pulp and paper. She worked in North Carolina until late August, when she moved to the company's Ontario, Canada, facility.

That move, however, is only one of many in a 21-year career since she earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from MSU. Cook has held numerous positions in the industry and credits Mississippi State with providing a solid background.

At MSU, she says, "It was not any one class or any one professor who

made the difference. The combination of hands-on skill building in labs, teamwork in group projects, classroom discussions, and leadership experience in school activities all have been key in my career."

Cook says her parents have been the greatest influences on both her personal and professional life. "They taught all of my family that you can achieve anything you set your mind to strive for and gave us

the encouragement through both successes and challenges."

The Canton native lists her greatest accomplishment at MSU as obtaining a master of business administration degree while working full time.



Sally Cook

F.P. hosts composites workshop

The Department of Forest Products hosted a "Wood Adhesion Problem-Solving" short course during November. The course was sponsored by the Wood-Based Composites Center.

Among the 30 short course participants were representatives from manufacturers of trusses, oriented strand board, particle board, heavy timber laminated beam (glulam), corporate research and development, and resin-adhesives.



The course focused on the adhesive bonding of wood, which is becoming increasingly important as new and improved products and methods are developed. Industries are adopting

new technologies to bond wood pieces into larger elements such as flat panels, finger-jointed lumber, furniture parts, etc.

The Wood-Based Composites Center includes four universities and strives to provide education and training, research, and technology transfer to service the North American wood-based composites manufacturers and related industries.

DEPARTMENT Updates

FORESTRY

- **Dr. Doug Richards** received the MSU Career Services Faculty/Staff Support Award for his outstanding support of Career Services events and activities.
- **Dr. Stephen Schoenholtz**, forestry professor, has left the department for a position with Oregon State University.
- **Dr. Alex Friend**, forestry professor, has left the department for a position with the USDA Forest Service.

FOREST PRODUCTS

- **Chris Allen**, graduate student, placed second in the graduate student poster presentation contest of the 11th annual Southern States Environmental Conference. His poster was entitled "Phytoremediation of Organic Wood Preservatives."
- **Dr. Jilei Zhang** is now a contributing editor to Modern

Woodworking magazine.

- **Martha Wilson** received a grant for recruiting from the Office of Graduate Studies.
- **Dr. Cynthia West**, forest products department head, has left the department to fill a position with the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, Ore. **Dr. Steve Bullard** is serving as interim department head and a national search is under way.
- **Dr. Leonard Ingram** received a patent, "Container for 4-Allylanisole and Analog Scolytid Pesticides." This is the fourth patent for Ingram.
- **Dr. Terry Conners**, associate professor, has left the department to fill a position with the University of Kentucky.
- **Dr. Mike Barnes** was nominated as president of the Society of Wood Science and Technology.
- **Dr. Terry Sellers Jr.** has been named an external assessor for appointment to the post of professor with the forestry faculty of University Putra Malaysia.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **Dr. Hal Schramm** recently was awarded the Outstanding Research Award from the American Fisheries Society. The award was given "in recognition for going the extra mile in sharing the value of fisheries science with the general public through the popular media and other communication channels."
- **Dr. Eric Dibble** and his wife Robin were named Outstanding Wetland Conservationists by the Oktibbeha County Soil and Water District for 2000.
- **Douglas Wood**, graduate student, received the Outstanding Wildlife Student Paper award at the 2001 SEAFWA conference in Louisville, Ky.
- **Dr. Lou D'Abramo** is the 2002 Outstanding Faculty Member at MSU. He was honored at the Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) in Jackson in mid-February for outstanding contributions to higher education in Mississippi. The award is presented by the Legislature.
- **Dr. Anita Kelly** recently was elected vice president of the Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society.



CATTING AROUND

South Africans Weeber Trutor (l) and Johan Uys toured the carnivore facility during a recent visit to campus. Trutor is an ostrich farmer from the Eastern Cape and Uys is a farmer and professional hunter from the Orange Free State who also owns a safari company. Members of the South African National Combat Rifle Team, the two spent the previous week at an international shooting competition in Arkansas before coming to Starkville. Trutor and Uys are good friends of CFR alumnus Randy Pope (forestry, 1974) of Meridian.

Dean to serve on national agricultural advisory board

The dean of the College of Forest Resources is a newly appointed board member of a group that advises the U.S. Department of Agriculture on its national policy.

Dr. Sam Foster, who also directs MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, recently was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to serve a two-year term on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Foster, who was named dean at Mississippi State last year, is the single board member appointed by Veneman to represent the issues and concerns of national forestry groups. The board is composed of 30 members from a variety of constituencies, including farm organizations, food and plant commodities, and food science, human health, and social sciences organizations, among others.

The national advisory group was established by federal legislation in 1996.

As MSU dean, Foster heads academic departments that include forestry, forest products, and wildlife and fisheries. As director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, he leads research efforts of faculty members in a \$6.5 million annual program that provides expertise to Mississippi's

\$14.8 billion forest and forest products industry, a major contributor to the state's economy.

Foster also serves as a Mississippi Forestry Commission board member and as vice chairman of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee for the Delta Council.

Before coming to Mississippi State, he was assistant research director for the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, based in Asheville, N.C., for nine years. He also had

served as a research geneticist at the station.

Foster holds a number of professional affiliations, including membership in the Society of American Foresters and Xi Sigma Pi, an honorary forestry society. He is one of only two Americans who serve on the editorial board of *Forest Genetics*, an international scholarly journal.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee and a doctorate from Oregon State University.

MEMORIAL



Anne and Terry Ozier

Dr. Terry S. Ozier, a retired veterinarian and friend to the College of Forest Resources, died Jan. 21. He was 86.

Dr. Ozier became active in forestry in the 1950s when he purchased tree farms. He was a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association, serving as its president in 1972, the Rankin County Forestry Association, and the Association of Consulting Foresters. He also served on the Advisory Committee for the Department of Forestry, was a longtime board member of the Forest Landowners Association, and served as an appointed member of the Mississippi Forestry Commission governing board 1972-1976 and 1990-1994.

Dr. Ozier and his wife Anne were recipients of the Mississippi Tree Farmer of the Year Award in 1989 and the National Tree Farmer of the Year Award in 1990. They also received the Forest Conservationists of the Year Award by the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

The Mississippi Forestry Association, along with friends and members of the Ozier family, established the Anne and Terry Ozier Endowed Scholarship within the College of Forest Resources in the couple's honor in 1999. Anyone wishing to support the scholarship should make contributions payable to the MSU Foundation.

Gift memorializes Forestry Commission employee

A Mississippi Forestry Commission employee who died in the line of duty is being honored by a corporate gift to Mississippi State's College of Forest Resources.

The \$5,000 memorial gift in support of forestry education is part of Stihl Inc.'s 2001 National Forestry Heroism Award program honoring John Paul Pritchett Sr. of Webster County.

Pritchett is recognized for extraordinary courage during a Webster County wildfire in August 2000. The commission crew chief received fatal second- and third-degree burns when a sudden wind shift trapped him in what became a pine plantation inferno.

An international manufacturer of chain saws and other portable power



Former MSU president Malcolm Portera (l) and Sam Foster (c) receive a \$5,000 check from James Malone.

tools based in Virginia Beach, Va., Stihl created the National Forestry Heroism Award in 1996 to honor the brave actions of individuals working in or devoting significant portions of their time to the forestry industry.

James Malone of Stihl Southwest presented the check in October 2001 during the College of Forest Resources' annual Advisory Committee banquet.

Company representatives earlier presented Pritchett's family a plaque, a monetary gift, an MS 440 Magnum chain saw, and a trip to the Stihl Timbersports competition in Branson, Mo. In addition to the MSU gift, Stihl is donating to a charity of the family's choice.

"We deeply appreciate the gift Stihl is making to the College of Forest Resources," said Dean Sam Foster. "These funds will be used to establish a scholarship in the college for majors in forestry, forest products, or wildlife and fisheries."

Private gifts critically important to CFR programs

Support from alumni and friends helps place the MSU College of Forest Resources among the top programs in the country. And, given the forecast for public funding in the coming years, private support will be even more critical in the future growth and success of our programs.

Increasingly, we depend on private funds to provide scholarships and assistantships for deserving students, acquire new information technology, and support faculty for research and service programs and continuing education opportunities for professionals in the field.

During the first six months of this fiscal year, the CFR has received \$1,221,669 in new gifts and pledges and \$1,343,960 in pledge payments. Included in these gifts are major contributions from the Delaney Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Seal, John

and Jutta Ferretti, Thomas and Page Harris, Walt and LeAnn Starr, and many other alumni and friends. We want to say a special thank you to everyone who continues to support our cause. We will feature many of these gifts in future issues of our newsletter.

Most nonprofit organizations (including universities) not directly linked to aiding the victims of the September 11 attacks on our country have seen a decrease in support. We are pleased to report that in our case, as of December 2001, gifts to our college are up 2035 percent. This is great news for our students and the CFR. While these numbers look good, continued private support is critical to our future. We encourage you to continue to help us educate and prepare tomorrow's leaders. Remember, no gift is too small and many of you work for companies that will match

your gift.

We appreciate all contributions and will use them wisely.

If you are considering a major gift, here are some options. You may give cash, which offers you the standard charitable deduction. You may give appreciated property such as stocks or real estate. These offer the charitable deduction and also allow you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated portion of the gift's value. Remember that pledges can be paid over a three- to five-year period. You also may make gifts in kind, such as equipment, furnishings, services, or other items when appropriate. These gifts will be credited to you at their full market value.

For more information on making a gift and learning more about our fundraising priorities, contact Keith Gaskin at 662-325-3815 or e-mail kgaskin@cfr.msstate.edu.

DEVELOPMENT

u p d a t e

Timberland gift enhances CFR future

Private support to the CFR is on the rise and a significant deferred gift from a Laurel couple is creating a win-win situation for all involved.

Tom and Page Harris have given the CFR approximately 430 acres of timberland in Newton County, with an estimated value of more than \$1million. The Harris family has owned the property since 1932.

The College of Forest Resources will manage the property, and funds generated from its management will be used to create a two-life charitable gift annuity for the Harrises, providing them with a lifetime income. Tom Harris, the retired president of Harris, Wilcock Timber, is a 1957 graduate of MSU's forestry program.

"The future growth of our college depends on significant contributions

such as this," said Sam Foster, CFR dean and director. "Timberland is dynamic and renewable, and this very generous gift will have a lasting impact on our college."

Future funds generated from the proper management of the timber will be used by the college to establish the Tom and Page Harris Endowment for Forestry Excellence. The land will be used as a teaching tool for forestry students and as a demonstration forest for forestry extension activities.

"We are committed to being good stewards of the land we receive," said Foster. "Therefore, the CFR will establish a management plan for the property using the best science-based forestry principles and practices."

Over time, the income will be used to create endowed faculty chairs and



Page and Tom Harris

professorships, purchase equipment, and establish scholarships and fellowships, as well as to fund faculty development and other general program enhancements.

"Acquiring gifts of timberland is a major focus of our fund-raising efforts," said Keith Gaskin, CFR director of development. "We hope this example set by the Harrises will encourage others to do the same. I believe this gift from Mr. and Mrs. Harris demonstrates their commitment to the tradition of yesterday, plus a strong vision for tomorrow."

Forestland . . . a special kind of asset!

Many people are fortunate enough to own forestland, an investment that often increases in value over the years. While growth of such an asset is certainly preferred, managing the land to maximize its productive capability can be a challenge for owners.

As you and your adviser plan for your future, consider the benefits of giving your appreciated property to the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State. A lifetime income through a trust arrangement called a life income agreement could provide these benefits:

- Bypass capital gains tax,
- Reduce current taxes through a charitable deduction,
- Select a competitive rate of return that is fixed or variable,
- Reduce size of taxable estate, if applicable, and
- Ensure the future of forestry education and research.

For more information about giving appreciated property in return for lifetime income, contact us at 662-325-3815 or e-mail kgaskin@cfr.msstate.edu.

Your inquiry will remain strictly confidential



If you would like more information on these scholarships or endowments, or would like to make a contribution to the College of Forest Resources, telephone Keith Gaskin at

662-325-3815 or e-mail kgaskin@cfr.msstate.edu.

Survey helps answer some forest industry questions

A majority of Mississippians have generally positive attitudes toward forestry and would like additional information about the forestry community.

Those results are among findings from a statewide survey of public perceptions of the state's \$14.8 billion forest industry. The yearlong effort recently was completed by Mississippi State's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Steve Grado. "They think it beneficial to tell the forest industry story to their students."

Grado, assisted by forestry department graduate students Marcus Measells of Morton and Rachel Habig of Russellville, Ala., mailed questionnaires to nearly 5,400 Mississippi teachers, loggers, private forest landowners, bankers, legislators, and members of conservation or environmental groups. Almost 2,500 were completed and returned.

The American Forest and Paper Association's Mississippi State Implementation Committee for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative sponsored the project.

Teachers and other groups indicated that most information they receive about forestry comes from environmental groups and others not directly involved with the forestry community, Grado said.

The highest response rate came from the conservation/environmental groups. "Public concerns about forestry include the environmental impact of harvesting practices and the effects of forest management on wildlife," Grado observed.

"Questions in the survey addressed those concerns and the

responses will help establish a long-term approach of elevating forestry and the forest industry in the consciousness of Mississippians," he added.

Grado said the study also found differences among the groups about how they wished to receive forestry-related information. For instance:

- Teachers said field trips, videos, and educational materials are the best way to educate students about forestry and the forest industry;

- Public agencies, loggers, and conservation/environmental groups preferred educational programs and materials;

- Bankers liked pamphlets, brochures, and presentations;

- Legislators preferred presentations; and

- Forest landowners wanted more workshops.

"Survey results will help us identify issues of concern that call for immediate action," Grado said. "The next step will be long-term educational efforts to help correct any false perceptions already held about forestry and the forest industry."

For additional information on the study, contact Grado at 662-325-2792 or by e-mail at sgrado@cfr.msstate.edu.



Laura Grace and Bill Stuart demonstrate forestry equipment at the Wood Magic Science Fair.

"Teachers, who had one of the highest response rates to the survey, have an overall positive attitude toward forestry," said associate professor

MSU furniture institute appoints new director

The Institute for Furniture Manufacturing and Management is Mississippi State's newest public service center and forestry professor Steven H. Bullard is its first director.

A university faculty member since 1983, Bullard heads a multidisciplinary research unit drawing on the expertise of faculty and staff in MSU's Forest

and Wildlife Research Center, colleges of Business and Industry and Engineering, School of Architecture, and the MSU Extension Service's Food and Fiber Center.

Development and testing of furniture frames and other components, as well as product testing and other research and support activities

for the furniture industry, are among the institute's focus areas.

"The institute's primary goal is to secure the future of the furniture industry in the state and region by increasing its international competitiveness," said Sam Foster, director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"Dr. Bullard and his staff will

'Do you reforest?' Why not?'

New MSU study provides answers

Mississippi's more than 18 million acres of forestland annually contribute about \$1.25 billion in timber sales to the state's economy.

Despite this, concerns about the future of the major natural resource are being raised because significant numbers of landowners do not reforest their harvested timberlands. The decline comes despite the financial incentives of government cost-share payments and tax credits.

In a recent survey, scientists at Mississippi State's Forest and Wildlife Research Center sought to gain a better understanding of landowner attitudes toward reforestation. The project focused on owners of at least 20 acres of uncultivated land where timber was harvested between 1994 and 1998.

"This study examined landowner characteristics and how they are related to reforestation decisions," said forestry professor John Gunter, the project leader.

Of 829 Mississippi landowners surveyed, approximately 50 percent said they did reforest. Most in this group plant pine seedlings, but do not participate in cost-sharing programs.

"The leading reasons for reforesting were desires to keep their property in timber production and to be good stewards of the land," Gunter said.

"The top reasons landowners don't replant after harvest are the beliefs that the site will reforest itself naturally and the high cost of reforestation," he added. Landowners who don't reforest also consider pine plantations "riskier than other types of investments."

The survey also reveals that:

- More than 80 percent say decisions to reforest should be left to landowners and not be regulated by the state; and

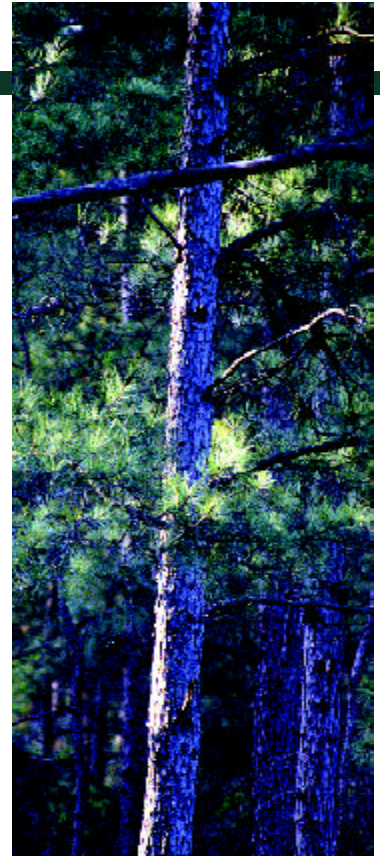
- Landowners who do not replant often are unaware of the available reforestation assistance and incentive programs.

"The shortfall in reforestation is occurring despite such incentives as cost-share payments under Mississippi's Forest Resource Development Program, federal income tax credits, and the new Mississippi Reforestation Tax Credit Program," Gunter said.

Landowners easily can learn about the incentives and other reforestation options by contacting local offices of

either the MSU Extension Service or Mississippi Forestry Commission, he said.

The entire MSU reforestation report may be read at www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/reforestation.pdf.



accomplish this by using the university's existing resources and capabilities to effectively work with industrial and other groups to meet the furniture industry's current and future needs," Foster added.

Bullard holds bachelor's and

Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management Fund Raising Totals to Date

Cash donations = \$1,307,462

Gifts in kind = \$84,308

master's degrees in forestry from MSU and a doctorate in forest management/economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He has worked with the MSU-based Furniture Research Unit since its creation by the Legislature in 1987. His specific research areas include evaluations of forestry investments and

furniture industry resources, manufacturing, and marketing.

Mississippi's furniture industry annually contributes \$3.9 billion in total output, provides nearly 50,000 jobs and pays \$1.3 billion in wages.

Wildlife professor puts teaching into practice

Eric Dibble's idea of a backyard doesn't include an expanse of Bermuda grass, a sprinkler system or manicured hedges.

The Mississippi State associate professor of wildlife and fisheries has returned his 80-acre "backyard" in western Oktibbeha County to the way it was before it was turned into pasture for beef cows in the 1920s.

Ducks, birds and other wildlife now make their homes in a natural wetland and a hardwood forest where cows grazed for almost a century. Dibble uses the restored land as a laboratory for the classes he teaches in the College of Forest Resources. His backyard hobby, he said, has three objectives: conservation, education and long-term research.

"Wetlands provide benefits such as improved water quality and enhanced habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds,"

Dibble said. "They also help reduce soil erosion and flooding, as well as improve the water supply."

Dibble has restored the former pasture to its original state as a wetland by planting bottomland hardwoods, such as oaks, cypress and sweet gum on about 30 acres.

"Bottomland hardwoods decreased over the last century with the increase in agricultural and pasture land," Dibble said. "By re-establishing

this wetland, I can practice my hobby and have an educational tool, laboratory, and long-term research project."

He also has enrolled part of his land in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program. Through that program, about 30 acres is flooded each fall to provide a winter habitat for ducks and other wildlife.

As expected, plants native to the area did not have to be reintroduced once the wetland was created.

"Cattails and other wetland plants emerged from seed that had remained



Bottomland hardwoods such as these provide many benefits.



Dibble (c) gives a tour of the wetland to U.S. Senators Robin Hayes (l) of North Carolina and Mississippi's Chip Pickering.

changes resulting from wetland reserve programs, Dibble said.

"The students enjoy working in the wetland laboratory and it changes their perspectives on how information gathered during field exercises is applied to actual problems," he added. "The experience also seems to give them

dormant since the area was converted to pasture in the early part of the 20th century," Dibble said.

The wetland laboratory is just a few miles from the MSU campus and provides some hands-on experience for students. Currently, students in Dibble's classes are gathering information to be used in a long-term study to measure and evaluate the federal wetland reserve program.

There is little data available on long-term studies of ecological

a new respect for a professor who practices what he preaches."

Dibble was named the Oktibbeha County's Outstanding Wetland Conservationist of the Year for 2000 in recognition for his wetland laboratory.

Since 1992, Mississippi landowners have enrolled approximately 100,000 acres in the wetland reserve program, resulting in the second largest state enrollment in the nation.

features

MSU Web-based software provides new tools for forestry valuations

New Web-based software developed at Mississippi State makes estimation of timber and timberland investment values easier.

FORVAL-Online, a forestry investment tool for forest valuation and investment analysis developed at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, is available on the Internet at www.cfr.msstate.edu/forval.

The new software provides many of the features of an earlier FWRC-

developed program, FORVAL for Windows, but in an easier-to-use format.

"FORVAL-Online uses Internet technology to help foresters and forest landowners evaluate forestry investments," said forestry professor and program co-developer Steve Bullard. "The program is designed to be an accurate, easy-to-use and readily available forestry investment analysis package."



Among the calculations the software program will perform are monthly and annual payments, as well as projected stumpage price.

In addition, the program will help evaluate a wide range of financial criteria, including internal rate of return, net present value, benefit/cost ratio, equivalent annual income, land expectation value, and net future value.

"FORVAL-Online provides an extraordinary Web-based forestry investment analysis calculator to landowners and forest professionals," Bullard said. "Although this is an Internet application, the actual processing takes place within the user's computer, permitting users to download sections of the program to use without being connected to the Internet."

For additional information about FORVAL-Online, contact Bullard at 662-325-2781 or by e-mail at sbullard@cfr.msstate.edu.

* CFR calendar of upcoming continuing education classes (January - October 2002)

GIS for natural resource managers

March 6-8

GPS: A certificate program for the natural resource professional

March 20-22

S-290: Intermediate wetland fire behavior

March 27-28

Forestry practices and principles

April 3-4

Prescribed burning

April 15-18

Record keeping and recording of occupational injuries and illnesses

April 22-23

Southeastern wetlands: their values, ecology, and management

May 14-16

Management of existing hardwood stands

June 3-6

Management of ponds and small impoundments

June 25

GIS for natural resource managers

July 17-19

Wildlife and fisheries management

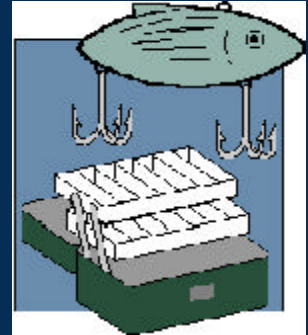
August 5-9

FEATURES

EVENTS

Alumni

**SPRING EVENT PLANNED
MAY 11, 2002**



**Fishing Rodeo
hosted by the Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries**

**Details to be announced
soon!**

Alumni fall Homecoming event

Our 2001 Homecoming Barbecue was wet and rainy, but we still had a great time and a reasonable turnout. We held tours of Thompson Hall to allow our alumni to see where we perform lab research and teach students. As always, we had a great time socializing and visiting with each other.



John O. Moore, Class of '61, attended the Homecoming festivities.

The alumnus who traveled farthest was Mark Gibson (forestry, 1981) who is a forester for the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. He was accompanied by his wife Candace and son Cory. We're always pleased to see our out-of-state alumni come back to visit! This was the first year we parked at the Forest Products Lab and bused

people over to Thompson Hall. We owe a big vote of thanks to our graduate students and research associates who served as bus drivers in the pouring rain.



Top: Emeritus Dean Warren Thompson and wife Marilyn enjoy the festivities.



Bottom: CFR Alumni Society President Harold Gordon makes announcements.

2001 CFR Alumni Society officers

CFR Alumni Society President Harold Gordon (forestry, 1973) is owner of Louisville Timber Co. He and his wife Deborah have two sons, Brian and Neil. Harold and Deborah are very active in church and community events. Harold also is a photographer for the local paper. Consequently, you can see him on the sidelines at the MSU football games with his camera, running to catch that perfect shot.

Vice President Don Burnham (forestry products, 1978) and wife Kathy live in Oxford with their two children. Don is a longtime employee of Georgia-Pacific Corp. He also is working on a Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi. Don is among the second generation of MSU CFR alumni. His father, James Burnham, was a 1948 farm forestry graduate.

Ruth Cook (forestry, 1982) is a native of Canton. She currently works for Molpus Timberlands Management LLC in Hattiesburg. Cook is building a new home and is enjoying (or maybe agonizing!) over decisions about wallpaper, paint colors, and plumbing fixtures. She is sister to another of our alumnae, Sally Cook of Weyerhaeuser Corp. We have several sets of brothers who are alumni, but Sally and Ruth are our only sister set so far!

Hill conducting research at FP

Allen Hill, senior process engineer for Masonite Corp., recently utilized new process technology at the Forest Products Laboratory. Hill is a 1979 wood science and technology graduate.

The object of the industry-sponsored research involves fiber board bonding in a dual oil/steam-injection heated hot press. Hill's study will result in material facts for management decisions of capital investment and enhanced consumer product quality.



Hill

Student **Services**

Dean's Student Council

The CFR Dean's Student Council provides the means for the exchange of information and ideas among the student body and administration. Members coordinate and support activities that enhance professional growth and social welfare of CFR students and provide counsel to the dean on academic and extracurricular aspects of student life. Membership is comprised of four elected officers (CFR Inter-school Council) and the president/chairman of each recognized CFR student organization. Rachel Singleton, coordinator of the Office of Student Services, is council adviser.



Council members are (l to r) Chad Dacus, Phillip Hollimon, Shelley McNamara, Brian Berryman, Sarah Gallagher, Jeremy Clay, Joe Mallard, Amanda Grau, Seth Swofford, and Kevin Burnette. Not pictured are Shawn Earles, Ryan Toby, Peter Smiley, and Brad Stombeck.

Students prepare for NOAA research



Students learn water safety and survival swimming training at the Sanderson Center.

Eight Mississippi State students recently traded their classrooms and dorms for the decks and bunks of a sea-going research ship.

All wildlife and fisheries majors at MSU, they took part in a week-long collaborative project with the National Marine Fisheries Service on board the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel Gordon Gunter.

The group included Ben Davis of Belmont; Jason Olive of Florence, Ala.;

Sara Palmisano of Pearl; William Cupit of Rosepine, La.; Rohasliney Hashim of Penang, Malaysia; Randall Kidwell of Crossville, Tenn.; Sam Shepard of Galway, Ireland; and Matt Thomas of Colorado Spring, Colo.

During their week at sea, the students conducted trawl surveys off the coasts of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana to determine the status of marine fisheries resources and the ocean environment, according to Donald Jackson.

"While on the ship, the students were oriented to the disciplines of living and working at sea on a research vessel," said Jackson, a professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and director of the program. "They gained experience in sampling techniques, fish handling and identification, and collection of environmental data, among other topics."

This is the fourth year the hands-on training has been offered to College

Wildlife student group honored

The Wildlife Society student chapter at Mississippi State is first among its peers in the region.

The 85-member group recently received a \$1,000 check and a plaque for scoring ahead of 20 other campus chapters in competition at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting.

"Chapters are judged in six different areas, including increasing public awareness and appreciation of wildlife conservation, and the wildlife profession," said adviser Jared Quillen, an MSU Extension Service wildlife assistant. "Each year, our members participate in such activities as the Wood Magic Science Fair, Youth Waterfowl Workshop, and Mossy Oak Duck and Deer Fest."

The Wildlife Society is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization representing professionals in resource management fields, especially wildlife ecology and management. Founded in 1937, the Bethesda, Md.-based organization has nearly 9,600 members in 60 countries.

Formed in 1971, the MSU chapter is the largest student organization in the College of Forest Resources.

of Forest Resources students as a component of Jackson's fisheries science course. Prior to taking the trip, all of the students participated in water safety and survival swimming training, also conducted by Jackson.

A division of NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service provides support for international fisheries management operations, trade and industry assistance, and conservation operations and enforcement, among other areas.



H.I. Woddard (forestry, 1953) is living in Fort Myers, Fla., with his wife Annalene, near his daughter and two grandchildren. He retired from South Central Bell Telephone Co.

Donald S. Bell (forestry, 1956) recently was elected to the Society of American Foresters Council, serving District XI covering Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Bell and wife Billie Joe are faithful attendees at MSU CFR alumni events.

Bill Bustin (forestry, 1957) is a forestry consultant in Brandon. He and wife Theresa have two sons, both MSU graduates. The Bustins returned to Mississippi from Alabama in 1997. He is in good health and still is flying, especially to detect beetle outbreaks.

Joe D. Duckworth (forestry, 1958) of Wiggins retired in 1993 from the U.S. Forest Service after more than 35 years of service. He and wife Mary Jo are the parents of Amanda and Kathy.

John Lester (forestry, 1958) has retired from State Farm Insurance in West Point.

Robert S. "Sid" Moss (forestry, 1958) and wife Mary have been enjoying living a rural farm life on their 90 acres since retiring from the Mississippi Forestry Commission in 1991. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Harry B. Tabor Jr. (forestry, 1958) is semi-retired, working for FESCO in Starkville as vice president of marketing. He recently served a two-year term as state chairman for Ducks Unlimited. Currently, he is district governor of the Lions Club in North Mississippi.

Bobby C. Webb (forestry, 1958) retired from International Paper in 1997. He and wife Jane have two grown daughters, Melanie and Debbie. Webb is enjoying his retirement, spending half his time on Tensaw Lake

in the Mobile Delta.

Larry Brewer (forestry, 1959) is the district manager for the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. His wife Dottie died two years ago. Brewer has three children and four grandchildren.

Charles Dismukes (forestry, 1961) is owner of Vaiden Timber Co. He and wife Carolyn live in Kilmichael. They have two children, Brian and Barry.

Ross A. Sherman (forestry, 1961) retired from the Mississippi Forestry Commission in 1991 and currently is employed by John G. Guthrie & Sons Inc. He lives in Wiggins.

Ramon L. Callahan (forestry 1961, wildlife and fisheries, 1963) is self-employed as a forestry/wildlife consultant. He and wife Mary Katherine live in Terry.

Lloyd Viets (forestry, 1968) works for VAP Timberland LLC. He lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Benson Guyton Jr. (forestry, 1969) has retired from International Paper Co. He and wife Judy live in Russellville, Ala. They have two daughters, Mary Jane and Melissa.

James T. "Jimmy" Green (forestry, 1970) is a forestry consultant. He and wife Judy live in Tuscaloosa, Ala. They have two children, Angie and Jamie, and a 6 year-old granddaughter.

Jim Thorsen (forestry, 1970) has worked for 31 years with the USDA Forest Service. He has been district ranger on the Ocala National Forest since 1989. He has two children, Lisa and Adam.

Phil Adams (forestry, 1971) and his wife Annette live in LaGrange, Ga. They have two children, Jay and Emily, and are expecting their first grandchild. Adams is the environmental protection specialist at West Point Lake.

Kevin Nolan (forestry, 1974) works for Weyerhaeuser Co. He and wife Martha are residents of Hot Springs, Ark. They have one son, Steve.

Malone Buchanan (forestry, 1977) is a forestland manager for the International Paper Co. in Carthage.

Ken Real (forestry, 1977) is the president of Realwood Inc. in Detroit, Ala.

Van Lewis (forestry, 1979) is residing in Meridian.

Sandra Ford (forestry, 1983) is working at Alcorn State University for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Ford lives in Gloster with her 14-year-old son Christopher.

Mary Beth Nickolich (forestry, 1983) is working as an area forester for Weyerhaeuser in eastern North Carolina. She lives in Washington, N.C.

Dr. Doug Gardner (forest products, 1985) has been promoted to full professor at the University of Maine.

E. Scott Griffin (forestry, 1985) is working for Forest Systems as a Southern Region manager. He resides in Decatur.

Rob Haupt (forest products, 1992) has been named global technology manager for Hayward Operations, Paper Overlays. He and wife Julia live in Hayward, Wis.

Robert "Robbie" C. Taylor (forestry, 1997) is working as a Microsoft Systems engineer for Memphis Light, Gas, and Water. He is living in Collierville, Tenn.

Tamara "Tammy" L. Cushing (forestry, 1999) is working for F.W. Forestry Services Inc. as a forest economist. She and husband Mark welcomed their first child, Emma Nicole, on July 22, 2001.

Brad W. Nail (forestry, 1999) is working for Great Southern Wood Preserving as a plant manager. He and wife Megan live in Southaven.



We want your news!

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

As the College of Forest Resources and its newsletter grow, we want you to grow with us. We want to continue including the Alumni Update in the newsletter, but we need your information to do that. Please use the form below to share with us and your fellow alumni career changes, recognitions or honors received, or other news. If you need more space, include a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Name of Business _____

Update Information _____

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 \$10 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 January 1 to December 31. If you would like to support the CFR Alumni Society, you may remit this form with a \$10 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

Forest and Wildlife Management Planning: An Annotated Bibliography

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/biblio.pdf

This annotated bibliography is a compilation of selected journal articles, books, extension publications, conference proceeding articles, Internet publications, and academic theses and dissertations from 1960 to present. They are related to the topics of forest and wildlife management planning, with specific application to the effects of manipulating timber growing stock to provide more or less wildlife habitat.

Financing Investments in Reforestation with Government Sponsored Loans: A Mississippi Case Study

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/financing.pdf

Lack of reforestation after harvest by non-industrial, private forest (NIPF) landowners threatens the sustainability of Mississippi's \$14.8 billion forestry and forest products industries. One reason NIPF landowners do not reforest is the absence of available credit to finance the relatively high cost of reforestation investments. To address this credit market failure, the Mississippi Special Task Force for Economic Development Planning has proposed the Mississippi Reforestation Investment Program. This current research effort evaluated the proposed program and refined and/or developed various components. The final result is a recommended model to be considered for government implementation. With minimal modification, the model could be implemented in other states, at the federal level and perhaps even at the local level.

Furniture Manufacturing and Management—Eight Strategic Issues for the 21st Century

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/eight_ways.pdf

In this report, we emphasize trends and issues that will affect the success of furniture manufacturing and marketing firms as they "take change by the hand" in the 21st century.

Wild Turkey Gobbling Activity in Central Mississippi

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/turkey.pdf

Increasing interest in turkey hunting has been associated with recovering populations. To properly manage a game species, biologists must design hunting seasons that maintain viable populations and monitor population trends.

PUBLICATIONS