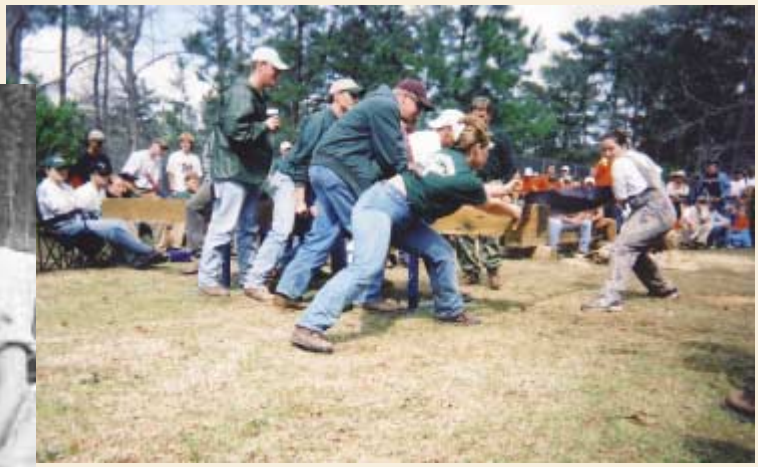
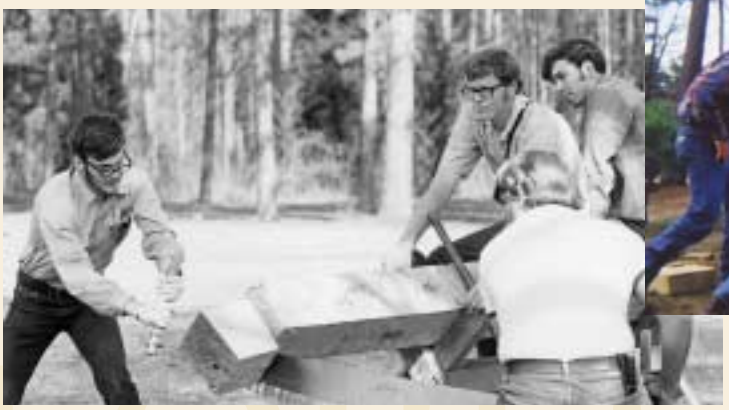
College of

Forest Resources

newsletter

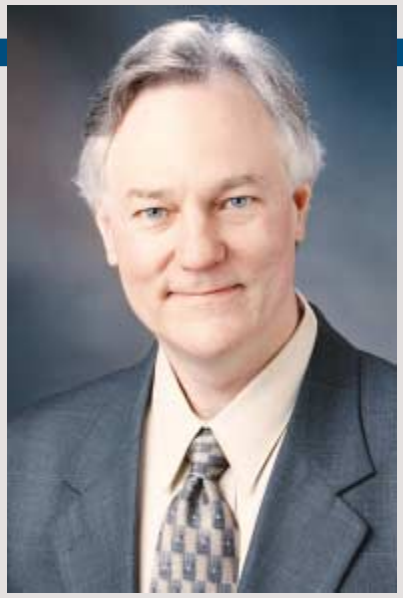
SPRING 2003





A look at forestry spring field day both past and present. The CFR Alumni Society participated with students in the forestry spring field day March 1.

Dean's Comments



G. Sam Foster

Dear alumni and friends,

Hello again! Despite the slow economy, good things are happening in the College of Forest Resources (CFR) and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC), and we appreciate your support.

A truly unique thing happened the first week in February . . . the Legislature passed and the governor signed the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill for education.

Included in the bill is funding for our academic program through Mississippi State University and our research funding through the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. This bill covers the fiscal year from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004.

The unique thing about it is that the bill was signed very early in the legislative session. We already know that our funding for the FWRC will equal $5,262,382, which is $48,453 over our current year's budget. This increase basically yields a flat budget since the increase covers a salary increase that was mandated this year. We are thrilled and very grateful to our friends in the Legislature, because a flat budget in a slow economy is great news!

Soon, we will learn the outcome of our academic budget. Please continue to let the Legislature know how much the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center mean to the state of Mississippi.

Another bright spot is that we are squeaking out enough funding for some targeted hiring.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Liam Leightley, the new department head in forest products, who joined MSU in January. His background includes experience in academia, an appointment with a state forest products laboratory and a tenure in private industry with Rohm and Haas.

In addition, we have faculty searches under way in the Forestry Department for a hydrologist and in the area of policy and law.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Department just added Dr. Daryl Jones as an adjunct faculty member in the policy area, and they are beginning the search process for a biometrician and a faculty member in the area of wildlife/agriculture interaction. The latter position will replace the post vacated in the area of aquaculture when Dr. John Hargreaves left MSU for Louisiana State University.

Finally, our building program is in a frenzy! The Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management is well on its way to being finished. The official completion date is November 2003, but progress is excellent.

The bid on the TimTek building has been awarded and construction has begun. We are hoping to occupy the building with the TimTek pilot plant in June or July 2003.

These are just a few highlights from the CFR and FWRC. We have a highly productive faculty and staff and are constantly striving to find new ways to serve the citizens of Mississippi. Come help us grow!

Sincerely,

G. Sam Foster

G. Sam Foster
Dean/Director

DEAN'S COMMENTS

Robert Haupt named CFR Alumni Fellow

Robert A. Haupt of Hayward, Wis., is the CFR's 2002 Alumni Fellow. Haupt is a 1992 master's degree graduate in forest products. Today, he is global technology manager for Dynea Paper Overlays, a leading international manufacturer of adhesives, industrial resins, and other bonding products. Formerly of Aurora, Ill., he also holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois. During the 1990s, he held the rank of senior research chemist at the company's global research and development group in Norway, where his fluency in Norwegian, German, Hungarian, Russian, and Spanish proved an invaluable asset.

Minimizing human-wildlife conflicts is goal of new MSU effort

From corn crops destroyed by raccoons to deer vs. automobile accidents, human encounters with wildlife can range from annoying to downright dangerous.

To help minimize such conflicts, a new research and education effort at Mississippi State will work to identify and develop innovative solutions that allow humans and wildlife to coexist harmoniously. The university recently joined with the nationally recognized Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management to draw on the expertise of faculty members throughout the country.

The Utah State University-based institute, which now designates MSU as its eastern unit, was established in 1993 and named for Utah native Jack H. Berryman, a 30-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service veteran. Berryman died in 1999.

"Over the last decade, the Berryman Institute has distinguished itself by developing research programs that provide more effective, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable ways of allowing wildlife to coexist with humans in an increasingly urbanized landscape," said Dr. Bruce D. Leopold, head of MSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

Nationally, human-wildlife conflicts annually result in more than 75,000 human injuries, 400 fatalities and $3 billion in economic losses, Leopold added.

MSU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries already has a national reputation for research, education, and extension programs related to wildlife management in the eastern United States.

"Expansion of the Berryman Institute to include Mississippi State will enhance our ability to understand, integrate, and address the complex, multi-faceted issues of wildlife damage management," Leopold said. MSU scientists are anticipating studies in such areas as coyote-livestock interactions, predators and aquaculture ponds, feral hogs, car-deer collisions, and the interference of airplane flights and landings by deer, seagulls, and other animals, he explained.

Leopold said Berryman currently has faculty members working on more than 70 projects in 14 states. The affiliation with MSU will increase their research projects, particularly on human-wildlife interactions east of the Mississippi River.

While historical approaches to wildlife damage have focused on eliminating or reducing the problem species, Leopold said the Berryman Institute focuses on long-term strategies that benefit wildlife while reducing the potential damage and nuisance they can cause. It also provides education and outreach programs to help people better understand wildlife behavior.

"The institute's research, education, and outreach goals are very compatible with those of Mississippi State's wildlife program," Leopold said.

The merger also will expand opportunities for inter-institutional, multi-disciplinary collaborations in research and outreach; learning opportunities for students; and workforce education for federal, state, and private agencies.

"By enhancing the positive values of wildlife and alleviating human-wildlife conflicts, we can assure the best outcomes for humans and a brighter future for wildlife," Leopold said.

DEPARTMENT Updates

FORESTRY

- **Dr. Andy Ezell** was invited to make an oral presentation at the Fourth International Forest Vegetation Management Conference in Nancy, France.
- **Dr. Andy Ezell** presented papers at the IUFRO conference in Vejle, Denmark entitled "Restoration of Temperate and Boreal Forests."
- **Drs. Stephen Grado** and **Robert Parker** served on a panel that developed the SAF forester certification examination.
- The SAF Committee on Accreditation has recommended that the Department of Forestry's undergraduate education programs be accredited for another 10-year period.
- The Department of Forestry began the process of staffing two vacant faculty positions, one in forest hydrology and one in forest policy/law.
- **Tim Knight**, forestry graduate student, received first place at the Prairie Arts Festival in the Graphic Arts/Photography Division.

FOREST PRODUCTS

- **Dr. Terry Sellers Jr.** was the invited guest of the Plywood Association of Australia and the plywood/laminated veneer lumber industry in four states of Australia. He was the keynote speaker at the 2002 ` Plywood Association of Australia annual meeting. His topic was "Overview of Worldwide Trends in Adhesives Technology."
- **Drs. Darrel Nicholas** and **Tor Schultz**, along with collaborator Dr. Barry Goodell of the University of Maine, edited a book on wood deterioration and preservation for the American Chemical Society Symposium Series.
- The Wood Magic Science Fair mobile classroom was on the move during the fall, visiting 14 locations and demonstrating the wonders of wood to more than 6,000 school children.
- **Dr. Darrel Nicholas** attended the annual meeting of the International Academy of Wood Science as an invited presenter.
- **Drs. Terry Amburgey** and **Michael Barnes** have been working to preserve historic wooden structures throughout the country. They are working on the USS Cairo at the Vicksburg Military Park, as well as covered bridges in Pennsylvania and Ohio. They also are training state personnel to treat historic buildings at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **Dr. Lou D'Abramo** received the 2002 Outstanding MAFES Worker Award. The award is sponsored by the Yazoo City-based Mississippi Chemical Corp. and recognizes excellence in research and technology transfer. D'Abramo's 19-year career at Mississippi State has focused on research that provides economical alternatives for catfish and other aquaculture producers.
- **Dr. Jim Miller** has been honored with lifetime membership in the Wildlife Society.
- **Dr. Jeannie Jones** has been elected president of the SE Section of the Wildlife Society.
- **Dr. Bruce Leopold** has been selected to be on the ballot for SE Section Representative of the Wildlife Society Council. Leopold also is on the ballot for an office in the National Association of Fish and Wildlife University Programs.
- **Dr. Dale Arner** was honored by the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences as its outstanding alumnus of 2002.

DEPARTMENT

Updates

Industry executive to head MSU's department of forest products

An industry executive who served as global manager for a major manufacturer of specialty chemicals is the new head of Mississippi State's Forest Products Department.

Dr. Liam E. Leightley, who assumes his new duties after a decade with Pennsylvania-based Rohm and Haas, now will lead the largest state-funded laboratory of its kind in the U.S.

Established in 1964, the Forest Products Department is part of MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center and serves an industry that contributes more than $14 billion annually to Mississippi.

"Dr. Leightley has a wealth of academic, governmental, and industrial experience," said Dr. Sam Foster, dean of the College of Forest Resources and research center director. "His diverse research and international knowledge will be an asset to the university and to Mississippi's forest products industry."

Leightley, whose research interests include technology transfer, wood protection, and marketing, also has held positions as visiting professor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., and as research manager at Queensland Department of Forestry in Australia.

Leightley holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and microbiology from the University of Bradford and a doctorate from the University of Portsmouth, both in the United Kingdom.

His career interests have focused on planning and directing business development policies, objectives, and initiatives, as well as developing new marketing initiatives, assessing new markets, and analyzing business opportunities.

Leightley has extensive leadership experience in the globalization of wood products to key market segments in the areas of building products, coatings, plastics, and woods.

He worked for two years in Japan as a research department manager with the Rohm and Haas specialty chemical company. While there, he established a biocides research department and directed research and development for the biocides business in the Asia Pacific Region.

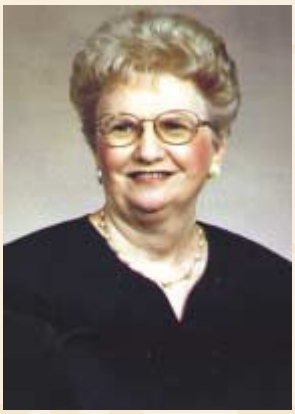
Leightley

Biocides are used to control organisms that attack wood, food crops, and other products.

Memorials

Rusty Dawkins, research assistant in wildlife and fisheries, died Nov. 4, 2002. Rusty was the facilities coordinator in wildlife and fisheries for 15 years. Rusty also was a 21-year veteran of the Starkville Fire Department, where he served as battalion chief. A fund for Rusty's children, Lauren and Tyler, has been established at AmSouth Bank. To make a contribution, contact Bill Malone at 662-324-4839

Dawkins



Josey

Rachel Josey, retired secretary in wildlife and fisheries extension, died Jan. 11, 2003, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Rachel served the wildlife and fisheries extension group for 22 years before retiring in 2002. She was instrumental in establishing the Catch-A-Dream program and recently was honored as a lifetime member. Alumni may make contributions to Catch-A-Dream in Rachel's honor by contacting Dr. Marty Brunson at 662-325-1701.

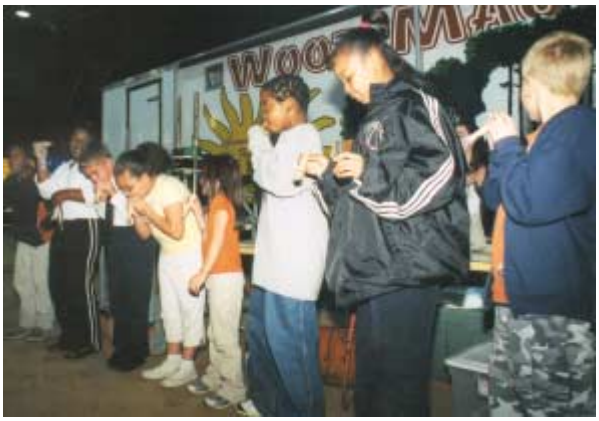
DEVELOPMENT update

Mississippi Forestry Association brings Wood Magic to schools

Mississippi's Sustainable Forestry Initiative® State Implementation Committee (SIC) is again offering grants in 2003 to county forestry associations to bring the Wood Magic Science Fair mobile classroom to their area. The SIC is pleased to award five grants of up to $1,000 to the local associations, according to Gary Beacher, Mississippi's SIC chair.

In 2002, Wood Magic grants were awarded to Wayne, Hancock/Harrison, Hinds, Montgomery, and Forrest/Lamar county forestry associations. The Mississippi SFI/SIC has supported the Wood Magic program for several years.

Mark Maupin, research associate, and graduate student Donan Eckles present WMSF to Winston County School students.



Corporation supports Wood Magic with gift

Georgia Pacific continues its support of the Wood Magic Science Fair mobile classroom with a recent donation of $10,000.

The "classroom" is a 44-foot trailer equipped with all the supplies and materials needed to produce a mini-WMSF on site at schools, forestry field days, and expositions.

Georgia Pacific Corp. has contributed more than $100,000 towards the mobile classroom, which reaches approximately 6,000 students annually.

For more information on supporting Wood Magic, contact Keith Gaskin at 662-325-3815.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

DEVELOPMENT update

Steve May and the Delaney Development Foundation—

Making a difference in the CFR

Confucius once said, "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

This could be a good description of Steve May's job as chief forester and vice president of Delaney Development Inc. A 1977 graduate in forest resource management, May has worked for the Delaney family for around 17 years and hasn't tired of what he does.

"I love my job and my work is probably nearer my hobby than anything you will find," he said.

Dr. Sam Foster, CFR dean and FWRC director (third from left), presents Steve May with a plaque recognizing Delaney Development's contributions to hardwood research in the FWRC. Looking on are (l-r) forestry graduate student Steven Peairs, forestry professor Andy Ezell, and Glenn Hughes, extension forester.

May's job is to manage some 65,000 acres of timberland owned by the Delaneys through their myriad of corporations based in Mobile, Ala. Delaney Development is owned by three siblings: W.R. and J.R. Delaney, and Darlene Frost. Their timberland is located in both Mississippi and Alabama.

"Delaney Development Inc. is one of the largest, non-industrial timberland holdings in Alabama," May said. "The Delaneys manage their land to both maximize recreational income through hunting leases and for aesthetics."

In fact, Delaney Development leases hunting land to approximately 34 hunting clubs and manages timber stands of all ages. This includes pine saw timber approximately 80 years old and hardwood logs up to 150 years old.

The bulk of the land that the Delaneys own was purchased by May in his role as vice president and chief forester.

"The Delaneys have a strong interest in bottomland hardwoods. The corporation owns approximately 15,000 to 18,000 acres of prime bottomland hardwood along the Tombigbee River in Alabama," May said.

Thanks to May's influence on his employers, the Delaney Foundation has contributed more than $70,000 to the Forestry Department through the Delaney Fund for Excellence, which they established in the MSU Foundation.

"The Delaneys have provided the support and an outstanding opportunity for research on oak regeneration that will benefit landowners throughout the South," said Ezell. "They have provided us with hardwood forested areas to work in, and they have made a commitment to us to use these areas over a prolonged period of time."

In addition to encouraging the Delaneys to support Ezell's research, May also has made an effort to give back to his alma mater.

"The College of Forest Resources means everything to me," May said. "I think it is important to give back to the college. Alumni owe their profession to this school."

"Steve May is helping us establish a strong relationship with the Delaney family," said Keith Gaskin, CFR director of development. "These are the types of partnerships that we must build to take our college to the next level of giving."

Donor Memorial

James S. Therrell of Starkville, an alumnus and a retired extension leader in the MSU Forestry Department, died Jan. 31, 2003. Mr. Therrell served the university for more than 30 years. He established the J.S. Therrell Scholarship in the College of Forest Resources in 1981. If you would like to contribute to the James S. Therrell Scholarship, contact Keith Gaskin at 662-325-3815.

Researchers reaching for bats in study

Radio transmitters attached to nocturnal, reclusive bats may provide data that can help the national timber industry better plan harvesting practices.

In a three-year study begun recently at Mississippi State, bats—the only mammals that fly—are helping university researchers gauge the environmental health of a commercially managed forest. Led by vertebrae ecologist Francisco J. Vilella, the effort is being funded by the Weyerhaeuser Corp.

Vilella, an assistant leader of the Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, said bats are a major component of forest ecosystems and will provide one measure of how timber operations affect biodiversity.

As a leading international forest products company, Weyerhaeuser holds distinctions, among other things, as the world's largest owner of merchantable softwood timber and the world's largest producer of softwood and hardwood timber.

"A commercial forest, unlike an undisturbed native forest, is made up of trees that are usually of the same age and type," Vilella explained. "Focusing on an intensively managed pine forest in Mississippi, we are looking at the roost site selection, habitat use and movement of red bats in particular."

Vilella said bats, like birds, "are a good indicator of environmental health" because they feed on insects and are highly susceptible to environmental influences.

Evaluating the effects of timber management practices on bats can help commercial companies make decisions about when and how to harvest trees while simultaneously protecting animal habitats, Vilella said.

While they migrate during winter to Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico, red bats spend their summer months in Mississippi and other Southeastern states. Females of the species also spend the summer—a primary timber-harvesting season—giving birth to their young.

To gather his airborne assistants, Vilella and graduate student Leslie D. Welch of Jakin, Ga., string nets around the sides of bridges and over streams, both primary areas in a bat's flight pattern. When safely in hand, the animals are gently fitted with tiny radio transmitters that are secured with surgical cement. After a couple of weeks, the radios fall off.

"It's a challenge to work with the radios because they are really small and their range is short," Vilella said. Further defining both "challenge" and "short," he explained that bat flight patterns must be monitored no farther than a quarter of a mile from where the animals go about their nightly routines.

Based on early results of what he readily admits is a most-unusual study, Vilella said the initial data shows adult female red bats with young to have an average home range of 138 acres, while the home ranges of breeding females may be as large as 264 acres. For adult males, the home ranges are larger, averaging 363 acres but extending to as much as 553 acres, he said.

By the time summer begins drawing to a close, he and graduate student Welch plan to have much more data about the environmental health of some important Mississippi forestlands.

Early pine beetle detection goal of MSU study

Just an eighth of an inch long, the Southern pine beetle is a big pest in Mississippi's forests, destroying thousands of trees each year.

The wood-boring insect soon may take less of a bite out of Mississippi forests, thanks to a new project in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Scientists there are using remote sensing technology to detect and analyze pine beetle infestations.

Remote sensing refers to the use of satellites and aircraft to gather information on land use, vegetation, moisture, and other characteristics of an area.

Funded by the Mississippi Space Commerce Initiative, the one-year project is expected to result in a commercially viable early detection system and other tools to battle the pine beetle.

"Southern pine beetles annually kill an estimated 12 million cubic feet of Mississippi's pine forest," said Donald L. Grebner, project investigator and assistant professor in the department of forestry. "With forest products accounting for $1.25 billion in agricultural revenue and ranking second among Mississippi's agricultural

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FEATURES

Research yielding new control for 'off-flavor' catfish

Three scientists are teamed at Mississippi State to find a solution to one of the catfish industry's costliest problems.

Dr. Anita Kelly, a fisheries biologist in wildlife and fisheries, William Holmes, senior development scientist with the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory, and Dr. Tor Schultz, a wood chemist in forest products, are investigating new ways to prevent occurrences of "off-flavor" in farm-raised catfish. Holmes is conducting the chemical analysis for the project. Their findings to date suggest some common products may offer immediate help in controlling a problem that costs catfish producers nearly $60 million annually.

"Compounds produced by blue-green alga in ponds can cause channel catfish to develop an undesirable musty or muddy taste known in the industry as off-flavor," said Kelly. "Producers must hold fish with this condition off the market until the flavor quality improves."

Because of lost sales and the high cost of current control methods, the condition has been identified by catfish farmers as one of the most serious problems facing the predominately Southern-based industry.

The university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, and the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory are funding the project.

Because off-flavor compounds are similar to the compounds produced by pine trees, Schultz was a logical partner for the research effort.

"The blue-green alga produces two chemicals that accumulate in catfish tissue and result in a musty or muddy flavor," Schultz said. "The alga can be controlled with copper sulfate, but there is an environmental concern about the use of copper in lakes and ponds."

Producers also can eliminate off-flavor by transferring affected fish to ponds with clean water, but Schultz said that solution takes significant time and labor. In addition, stress resulting from the move usually kills precious numbers of the fish.

The study involves the use of hydrophobic compounds that have the ability to absorb various chemicals but are insoluble in water. The compounds,

including paraffin wax, common plastics, rubber, and corn oil, have the additional cost and environmental benefits.

"We found that 85 percent of the chemicals that cause off flavor can be absorbed in 24 hours by adding a small amount of an organic substance to pond water," Schultz said. "The process is both environmentally friendly and cost effective."

As the university applies to patent the process, the scientists are continuing their work.

"Several hydrophobic compounds have proven effective in tests and we presently are concentrating on the right formulation," Kelly said. "We want the final product to be in a solid form, such as wax, that can be easily handled by catfish producers and also be easily removed from ponds once the off-flavor compound has been absorbed."

Pine Beetle continued

products, we need to find new ways to protect this important asset."

Beetle infestations now are identified primarily by visual inspection from small aircraft. Once infestation areas are mapped, experts on the ground determine the best course of action to control the pest.

One problem with the current system, Grebner noted, is that the damage is not spotted before trees actually begin to die from beetle infestations. The MSU project will seek ways to detect telltale signs the pest is just starting to move into trees.

Another project goal is to assess the economic impact of pine beetle damage to Mississippi's forests.

"The monetary loss resulting from pine beetle damage has not been previously determined," Grebner said. "This project will provide loss estimates, in addition to performing image analysis to detect pine beetle damage and determining the marketability of trees already damaged by the insect."

An economically viable early detection could be commercialized for use by private, corporate, state, and federal forest managers and landowners seeking to protect their timberland investments, Grebner added.

"Early detection and treatment of pine beetle infested areas will reduce per-acre losses and promote healthy investment returns from active forest management," he said.

EMC Surveying and Mapping of Greenwood is assisting in the MSU project by acquiring and processing the digital images.

features

Study offers hope for duckling survival

In the animated motion picture "Muppet Movie," Kermit laments in a well-known tune, "It Ain't Easy Being Green."

Mississippi State researchers are finding that the fictional frog's problem is shared by a real-life wetland inhabitant whose distinctive green crown and multi-colored breeding plumage cause many to regard it as the continent's most beautiful duck.

The North American wood duck also happens to be one of the Southeast's most popular waterfowl. A distinctly North American species, it's now the subject of a recently released report on duckling survival rates completed by scientists at the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"To understand early survival of wood duck ducklings, we looked at factors ranging from the age of the mothers to the predators that feed on ducklings," said wildlife and fisheries professor Richard Kaminski. "Habitat use also was an important part of the study."

Over a four-year research period, Kaminski, co-investigator Bruce Leopold, and graduate student team members found that more than 90 percent of the brooding wood duck females survived. Sadly, only about 20 percent of their offspring ever reached adulthood.

To gather information, MSU investigators fitted radio transmitters weighing less than one-tenth of an ounce to more than 130 nesting females and 400 ducklings in the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge of East Mississippi and the Aliceville Lake of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in West Alabama. Movement and survival data was collected by then-doctoral student Brian Davis, under the direction of Kaminski and other faculty members.

In the forest and wildlife research report, Davis identified predators to be the primary cause for low duckling survival rates. "Birds devoured a large percentage, while aquatic predators, including spotted gar, snapping turtles, alligators, and even cottonmouth snakes, also took a significant toll," he reported.

Additionally, Davis observed that a major factor in the loss rate had much to do with a well-intentioned change to the birds' nesting habit introduced by humans in the 1930s.

"Clearly, nest boxes help rebuild populations that almost were exterminated by over-harvest and habitat losses," Davis said. "However, because boxes often were placed close together in areas lacking adequate vegetative cover, the ducklings became easy predator targets."

Duckling survival rates average more than 70 percent in habitats with a dense cover of scrub-shrub vegetation and forests, the study found. This compares to a 12-43 percent range in wetlands with a concentration of man-made nest boxes.

Boot camp for chaise lounges

The next time you drop anchor into your recliner to watch a Bears game—and don't hear the sound of wood cracking or find yourself flat on the floor amid a pile of kindling—you probably can thank some folks at Mississippi State.

It's there at the Furniture Research Unit, part of the school's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, that items such as recliners and sofas are pushed—and punched, pulled and jiggled—to the limit and beyond to make sure they'll be able to withstand the stress consumers put on them.

As with companies everywhere, furniture manufacturers want to get the most out of their designs. Is a frame strong enough? What happens to cushions over an extended period of use? It's questions such as these that are answered in the three testing buildings on the MSU campus where manufacturers from around the country send furniture.

"I can't think of anybody we haven't tested," says Dr. Dan Seale, a professor in the College of Forest Resources and coordinator of furniture research in the Department of Forest Products.

Material—natural and manmade—is checked for strength, joints and frames are examined to make sure they'll hold up, cushions are examined for cushiness, springs are tested for springiness.

The first question might be, why Mississippi State?

"The furniture industry in Mississippi is second only to North Carolina; 70 percent of all upholstered furniture comes out of Mississippi," explains research associate Bob Tackett. "We're here, basically, to help the industry."

Through their testing, Seale, Tackett and their associates at the 15-year-old unit provide research data and technical assistance that will make furniture manufacturers more competitive. Every year, some 40 pieces of furniture are shipped to the facility.

continued next page

Survey explores hunter attitudes

Mississippi hunters were asked their opinions of the state's wildlife management laws and the overall satisfaction they have with hunting experiences in the Magnolia State.

Some 11,000 licensed hunters were contacted by mail regarding their views and experiences as part of the 2002 Survey of Mississippi Resident and Non-Resident Hunters. The total includes 6,000 Mississippians and 5,000 others from sister states who sought game during the various 2001-02 seasons.

This year, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks contracted with Mississippi State's Human Dimensions and Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory to conduct the study. The lab is a part of the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Each year since 1974, MDWFP has used similar surveys to gather information on issues related to state wildlife management.

"This year, we'll be gathering more information on the social and economic aspects of hunting-related activity in Mississippi," said Dr. Kevin Hunt, MSU assistant professor of wildlife and fisheries. "In the past, the focus of the survey traditionally has been on the harvest aspects of hunter behavior."

"Emphasis now will be given to finding effective ways of providing more satisfying hunting experiences, increased hunter participation and the promotion of wildlife enterprises in rural agricultural areas," Hunt said.

Mississippi hunting and fishing has evolved into an almost $1 billion annual industry, he said, adding that the new survey "will provide ample and reliable data for economic impact analysis and provide a starting point for trend information."

Associate forestry professor Steve Grado and professor of forestry Ian Munn, both forest economists, will analyze the data and produce the statewide economic impact analysis. Hunt said the survey is the first major project for the Human Dimensions and Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory, which was established earlier this year. The laboratory is a cooperative effort between the research center's departments of Forestry and Wildlife and Fisheries.

Hunt said the lab's primary mission is to assist governmental agencies and non-government organizations in better understanding and integrating human dimension-based information into their decision-making processes.

"Public sentiment and the economic impacts of wildlife- and fisheries-related expenditures are becoming increasingly important parts of wildlife and fisheries management" Hunt observed. "That is why we are encouraging hunters to take this opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns about wildlife management in Mississippi."

By William Hageman, Chicago Tribune

When a piece of furniture arrives, there's usually a specific test the manufacturer wants done.

Tests are done according to standards set by the Government Services Administration or the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association.

There are six GSA areas of testing, however, it's not necessary for all tests to be performed on every item.

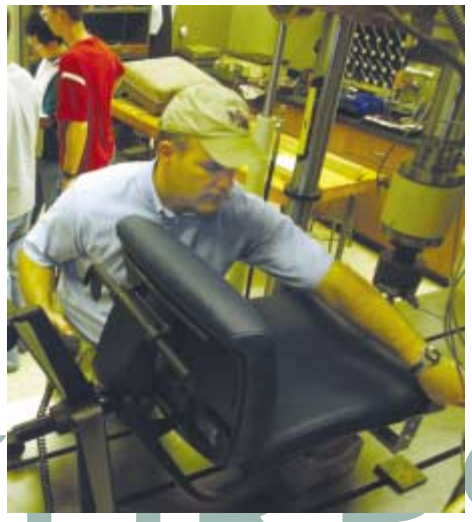
"We're trying to provide one-stop shopping for the manufacturers," says Jilel Zhang, an assistant professor at the Forest Products Laboratory.

And don't think the industry doesn't appreciate it.

"There's some talented guys down there who do all this work, and it's certainly a benefit to us. It's a big plus," says Mickey Holliman, chief executive officer of St. Louis-based Furniture Brands International, the largest residential furniture company in the world. Once tests are completed—testing itself can go for more than a week—the computer data that has been obtained is analyzed.

The furniture is photographed and a detailed report is prepared for the manufacturer. The entire process usually takes about a month.

"For the lab report, we just, in general, report what we found," Zhang says. "They make the decision if they need to change or improve."



EVENTS Alumni

Forest Resources history project

Next year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the College of Forest Resources.

It's hard to believe our first class graduated in 1954. For several years before that, we had farm forestry classes, which were attended by agriculture students. The memories of those years are precious to all of us and the CFR Alumni Society wants to collect and preserve those recollections for future generations. As a start, we have been gathering old photographs from around the college—the scrapbook kept by Doris Lee, a scrapbook from the beginning of the college, old extension photos, and the conclave journal, "The Southern Forester." These are being catalogued, scanned, and will be permanently archived at Mitchell Memorial Library.

We know that many alumni have photos, newspaper clippings, and stories to share. Would you be willing to contribute your materials to this project? You may not be willing to give your photographs, but we would love to have copies of the photographs or scans that can be archived. The standard we need for scanning purposes is 300 dpi jpeg files. If you send us a photo or scan, please make sure you clearly identify the event, people involved, and time.

Along with your photos, we ideally would love to create a collection of stories that would illustrate the depth and flavor of experiences in the departments of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Forest Products. We are planning to meet with the Consortium for the History of Agricultural and Rural Mississippi, or CHARM, to learn how our alumni can gather oral histories of our college and of forest and wildlife history in Mississippi.

We are beginning with our natural resource policy class. Students will interview forestry and wildlife professionals who were instrumental in setting and implementing natural resource policies in the mid to late 1900s. These interviews will be recorded, transcribed, and deposited at Mitchell Memorial Library. The CFR Alumni Society would like to extend the program to allow our alumni to collect memories and reminiscences from our graduates. By this fall, we are hopeful of having a system set up to teach alumni to gather these memories in an approved format for archiving. We hope many of you would be willing to participate in this effort.

Another major history project is the collection of forestry, wildlife, and natural resources books to add to the permanent collection at Mitchell Memorial. As you know, funding always has been limited for library acquisitions, and there are many books that would be valuable additions to the collection. For example, the library currently has only one copy of Herbert Kaufman's *The Forest Ranger: A Study in Administrative Behavior*. The copy is underlined, dog-eared, and tattered. It would be nice if we could replace this classic policy text with a decent copy for students.

There are many out-of-print books that could improve the ability of students to understand the historical progress of our professions. We are asking that you look through your personal libraries and see what natural resource books in good condition you could contribute to the permanent collections. We are not seeking old forestry textbooks, unless they are rare. For instance, we really do not need 50 copies of David Smith's *The Practice of Silviculture*, but we would be interested in receiving several copies of the 1945 textbook, *Elementary Forestry for Mississippi*. If you are uncertain if we would like your book, please call Debbie Gaddis at 662-325-8002, or e-mail her with the title at dgaddis@ext.msstate.edu.

The CFR Alumni Society is focused on supporting 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 yearly dues of $25. These are not the same dues that you pay to the MSU Alumni Association and the MSU Alumni Association does not collect dues for the CFR Alumni Society. Membership is on an annual basis beginning in October of each year. If you would like to support the CFR Alumni Society and its activities, please tear off this application and return it with a check or money order for $25 to:

MSU College of Forest Resources Alumni Society
Box 9681
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Name_____ Year Graduated _____Department _____
Address _____ City _____State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Student Services

FALL 2002 GRADUATES

A special reception and ceremony honoring fall 2002 graduates and their families was held in December. The dean presented the students with a certificate of completion as they marched in, and Debbie Gaddis, faculty representative to the CFR Alumni Society, presented the new alumni with lapel pins.

Council members include (front row, l-r) John Kirkpatrick, Sabrina Clark, Sarah Gallagher, Shane Harrington, Andi Cooper, and Scott Edwards. Back row (l-r) are Dean Sam Foster, Brad Stombock, Philip Hollimon, Shawn Earles, Erica Wells, and Andrew McKelroy.

DEAN'S COUNCIL

The CFR Dean's Student Council provides the means for the exchange of information and ideas among the student body and administration.

It coordinates and supports 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.

CFR AMBASSADORS

A new group of students is assisting Rachel Singleton in recruiting efforts.

The Ambassadors travel to junior colleges, high schools, and career fairs to meet with potential students. The program began in the fall of 1999, funded by alumnus Charles S. Dismukes, the owner of Vaiden Lumber and longtime supporter of the CFR.

The Ambassadors for 2002-03 include (l-r) Sam Jenkins of Augusta, Ga., a junior majoring in forestry; Andi Cooper of Canton, a senior in wildlife and fisheries; Chaffin King of Clinton, a senior forestry major; and Erica Well of Huntsville, Ala., a senior majoring in wildlife and fisheries.

STUDENT FORESTRY GROUP AT MSU MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS

Mississippi State's student chapter of the Society of American Foresters is again among the top organizations of its kind in the nation.

The 80-member university chapter finished second in the 2001-02 SAF Outstanding Student Chapter Awards competition. The honor recognizes a chapter's leadership and participation in professional and service activities at local, state, and national levels.

Founded in 1900, the SAF is the world's largest professional organization for foresters.

The latest honor is not the first for the MSU student chapter, which captured first place in the 2000-01 and 1996-97 competition, and also was second in 1998-99.

All forestry majors, the 2001-02 chapter officers included president Brian N. Berryman of Leighton, Ala., vice president Kevin Burnette of Starkville, secretary Caree A. Crosby of Long Beach, and treasurer Butch Copeland of Philadelphia.

Assistant professor of forestry Donald Grebner is chapter adviser.

Nationally, the SAF has 18,000 active members engaging in a variety of programs to improve the health, productivity and use of the nation's forest and forestlands.

ALUMNI Updates

Frank R. Ivy (forestry, 1957) is a retired regional manager for Stone Container Corp. in Savannah, Ga. He lives in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Bobby G. Hutto (forestry, 1958) is living in Natchez and working as a manager of fiber supply for International Paper Company.

James L. Sledge Jr. (forestry, 1961) was elected president of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) at the association's 80th annual meeting in Burlington, Vt. Sledge has been the state forester for 11 years.

Robert L. Bailey (forest products, 1962) is a professor of forest biometrics at the University of Georgia.

Terry B. Leath (forestry, 1965) is a production mechanic for American National Can Company in Olive Branch.

Bob Griffin (wildlife and fisheries, 1969) is an adjunct professor in MSU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Claude Pat Ramsey (forestry, 1972) is the owner of Anderson River Oak Industries in Yazoo City.

John Mitchell (forestry, 1975) is living in Corinth with wife Hilda. John is owner of Mithcell Forestry Consulting.

George Glynn Pittman (forestry, 1976) and wife Gayle are living in Collinsville. He works for McFarland Cascade/Electric Mills Wood Preserving as a resource and operations manager. Pittman says he is glad to be back in the South after a few years in the Northeast.

John R. Abruzzese (forestry, 1978) is a systems analyst for the Isle of Capri Casinos Inc. in Biloxi.

David D. Daams (wildlife and fisheries, 1979) is a park ranger for the Idaho Department Parks in McCall, Idaho.

Joseph J. Campo (wildlife and fisheries, 1980) is a senior biologist for GeoMarine Inc. in Newport News, Va.

William C. Fletcher (forestry, 1981) is supervisor for the United States Postal Service in Clinton.

Maynard D. Henke (forestry, 1984) is a fish biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks in Jackson.

Larry D. Wasfaret (forest products, 1986) is a senior wood technologist for Neste Resins Corporation.

Keith M. Blanton (wildlife and fisheries, 1988) is a wildlife biologist for the USDA-Animal Damage Control in Karns, Tenn.

Paul L. Tigrett (forestry, 1995) and wife Christy are living in Brandon. He works for Tigrett Forest Land Specialists Inc. as president.

Ivan C. Messinger (forestry, 1995) is a biologist for the Gault Group Inc. in Phoenix, Ariz.

Anissa Roark-Young (forest products, 1996) had her first child—a baby girl, Bethany Rae Young, born on Feb. 1, weighing 7 lbs., 5 oz. and 19 inches long.

Jason C. Cooksey (forestry, 1997) and wife Heidi are living in Meridian. Jason works for Forest Resource Consultants Inc. as a manager.

Marcus Collier (forestry, 1998) and wife Jennifer are living in Starkville. Marcus works for the Starkville Fire Department. Marcus recently was honored with the Firefighter of the Year Award.

Kristopher Dustin Tanner (forestry, 1998) is living in Lucedale. He is working for himself as a farmer and in construction.

William R. Nettles IV (forestry, 1999) is living in Durham, N.C.

Daniel "Clay" Seale (forest products, 2000) is living in St. Simone Island, Ga. He is working for Rulon as a sales and administrative support specialist.

Kyle W. Fogarty (forest products, 2000) and wife Teresa are living in Sulphur, La. He is working for Temple Inland Forest Products Corp. as a process engineer.

Matthew Vrazel (forest products, 2000 and 2002) is working for Dynea USA, Inc. as a technical service representative. He and wife Caroline live in Eugene, Ore.

Alex E. McIngvale (wildlife and fisheries, 2001) is living in Charleston and working for B.C. Farms as a land manager.

ALUMNI UPDATES

ALUMNI

Updates

We want your news!

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

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

Social Security Number _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Name of Business _____

Children/Grandchildren _____

Update Information _____

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Become a member of the CFR Alumni Society

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

Mississippi State University
125 YEARS
1878—2003

College of Forest Resources
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Mississippi State, MS 39762-9680

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Check out these publications on our Web site

Managing for Antler Production: Understanding Age, Nutrition, and Genetic Influences
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/antler.pdf
The goal of this publication is to clarify the basic influences of age, nutrition, and genetics on antler development and then discuss how these fairly simple biological principles may interact in the ultimate expression of management success on your property.

Fees and Services of Mississippi Consulting Foresters
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/foresters.pdf
This paper summarizes the results of a 1996/1997 survey of Mississippi's consulting foresters.

Composting of wood wastes: Plywood and sawmill residue
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/composting.pdf
Wood waste disposal is becoming a huge problem for Mississippi's forest products industry. Recent research has found ways to compost many of these wastes and reclaim them for value-added products.

Wood Duck Broods in Dixie: Striving to Survive Early Life
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/ducklings.pdf
Waterfowl biologists have long known that nest success is primarily important for sustaining duck populations. However, hatched ducklings comprise only one component of the equation; survival of ducklings after they exit nests also is critical.

To borrow or not to borrow?
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/borrow.pdf
The financial attractiveness of borrowing funds to apply herbicides for hardwood control in establishing loblolly pine stands on cutover sites.

Novel Methods for Controlling Gray Stain in Logs and Lumber
http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/gray.pdf
Development of methods that can control gray stain will save millions of dollars each year, and make the lumber a more attractive export material. It has been estimated that controlling these sap stains can increase the value of Mississippi hardwoods by about $19 million per year.

PUBLICATIONS