

mississippi state university

College of Forest Resources

alumni newsletter

Spring 2006



Homes that will survive the Southern Region

The Southern Climatic Housing Research Team includes (l to r) David Lewis, Architecture; Shane Kitchens, Forest Products; Terry Amburgey, Forest Products; Pat Donahoe, Electrical Engineering; Chris Eamon, Civil Engineering





DEAN'S

comments

Communication continues to be one of the most important components of our College. We place great value on communicating with our alumni, donors, and supporters. The Alumni Newsletter is one form of communication, but there are so many others. I welcome your suggestions on how CFR and MSU can keep you involved in what is happening and what we have planned for the future. Moreover, we want to be engaged in the activities associated with you, with your agency, and with your company. Please work with us to keep the flow of communications open.

Inside this newsletter you will find details about a few changes in our College and Center. I am pleased to report that the MSU Water Resources Research Institute has been moved to the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Our faculty are pleased to have WRRRI located in Thompson Hall, and I expect great synergy to spring from this merger of the water research program with the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. The realignment became effective March 1. Additionally, we are working toward an agreement with the MSU Extension Service for the forestry and wildlife extension faculty and staff to become more directly aligned with our College. This will give our College a cohesive approach to our land grant mission: extension, teaching and research. I expect more unified programs being communicated from our College with this new structure in place.

We had a successful Advisory Committee meeting this fall and photos of the Advisory Groups are included in this newsletter. The Advisory Committees' are extremely important in directing the College and Center's programs. They also assist in communicating our message across the State.

Our Bulldog Forest campaign continues to develop, and we have recently been contacted by several prospective donors. The Bulldog Forest campaign focuses on gifts of land to the College. The land is managed for profit to help the College carry out its mission. The gift of land secures an individual's financial future and creates a legacy as each unique property in the Bulldog Forest retains the family name. Detailed information on this program is on page 15.

Many exciting programs in our forestry, wildlife and fisheries, and forest products departments are under way. Our faculty continue to serve in many national leadership positions, to produce high quality research results, to incorporate innovation in their classroom and laboratory settings, to educate landowners, loggers, youth, and resource professionals through our Extension activities, and to receive competitive grants for their research and education proposals. I am proud of their individual and collective accomplishments, not only for the recognition it brings to MSU and CFR, but also for the outcomes and impact of their work such as helping provide critical information for our decision makers, developing new technologies for our manufacturing industries, engaging the business leaders in new opportunities, demonstrating best practices for protecting and conserving our natural resources, and developing and mentoring our students—the leaders of the future.

Communication is a key component to our success. Please contact us and help us to keep in touch with you as we strive together for excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George Hopper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George M. Hopper
Dean

alumni fellow

Gerald Moore

Gerald Moore is the 2005 College of Forest Resources Alumni Fellow.

Moore is the owner and president of Pine Belt Foresters in Petal, a forestry consulting firm.

Moore is a 1963 graduate in forestry. He is president and board member of the Mississippi Forestry Association, serves on the membership committee for the American Forestry Association, and is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.



alumnus of the year

Tim Rials

Tim Rials is the 2006 College of Forest Resources Alumnus of the Year.

Rials is professor and director of the Tennessee Forest Products Center, a component of the University of Tennessee.

Rials received his bachelor of science in forestry from Mississippi State University in 1980. He received his master's and doctoral degrees in wood science and technology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Accolades



College of Forest Resources research associate Alexis Londo, left, and forest maintenance supervisor Bridget Carr recently were honored with the 2005 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards for outstanding service.



Three College of Forest Resources faculty members have been honored with outstanding achievement awards for 2005. Recipients include (l-r) forestry associate professor Don Grebner for service, wildlife and fisheries professor Stephen Demarais for teaching, and wildlife and fisheries professor Menghi Li for research.



Homes that will survive the Southern Region

According to the National Association of Home Builders, Hurricane Katrina destroyed some 275,000 homes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

High-wind events, including hurricanes, are just one of the items being addressed by Mississippi State University's Southern Climatic Housing Research Team—a unique collaboration of personnel in forest products, architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering.

"All of these disciplines contribute some aspect to the building process, yet never have they worked together to address housing problems unique to the Southeastern region," said Terry Amburgey, professor in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The team is in the planning stages of constructing a research/demonstration house on the MSU campus. Architectural models have been developed and the blueprints are being drawn.

"We are convinced that housing research must be regionalized rather than trying to develop a 'one size fits all' structure," Amburgey added.

With approximately 70,000 new homes being built each year in the Southeastern U.S., there is a need to study housing problems unique to the region.

"Our approach couples designs for energy efficiency with biological and structural durability issues, while improving indoor air quality for houses built in the region," Amburgey said. "Each discipline contributes a distinctive component to the research effort."

The warm and humid environment in the Southeastern U.S. results in high potential for wood deterioration. Decay fungi and termites are the most destructive wood pests of homes in this region. Research in forest products is addressing durability issues, including moisture control for foundations, walls and windows, as well as construction and chemical strategies for termite infestation.

Scientists in civil engineering are researching structural responses to high-force lateral wind loads including tie-down systems for foundations, walls and roofs.

"Mississippi has tremendous exposure to hurricane and tornadic winds that cause significant property damage and loss of life each year," said Thomas White, a professor in civil engineering and team member. "Civil engineering has developed important testing and analysis capabilities for wind loading on structures."

Researchers in mechanical engineering are studying incorporation of hygroscopic materials and low-velocity ventilation for maintaining air quality. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, more than 50 million people in the

United States suffer from asthma and allergies. The goal of the MSU research is to find ways to prevent dust mites, pollen and other allergens. They also are researching ways to limit relative humidity in homes to 45 percent and to limit volatile organic chemicals, which are emitted as gases from certain solids and liquids.

Architecture and landscape architecture personnel are developing low-energy and power-producing systems for residences as well as regenerative processing characteristics of a surrounding ecological system. Concurrently, electrical engineers at MSU are studying advanced

wiring and utility systems for single-family homes.

"The MSU house will have an immediate reduction in energy requirements by 75 percent compared to homes typically built in this region," Amburgey said. "This will be accomplished through the use of long overhangs, trellises, outdoor living, tall ceilings and cross ventilation in every room."

The goal is to illustrate to the public that durability, energy efficiency, and air quality do not have to be compromised by lifestyle, spatial needs or the looks of a house.

Design and structural concerns for hurricane resistant residences

Southern Climatic Housing Research Team members David C. Lewis, PhD, RA Architecture and Chris Eamon, PhD, PE Civil Engineering

Arguably, the most hurricane resistant house would be a square reinforced concrete bunker with thick walls and roof, few windows, and no overhangs. But who would want to live there? In light of the two recent devastating hurricanes, and equally significant, the long history of tornadoes, the design and structuring of houses must transform to adequately respond to the destructive forces without sacrificing the aesthetics or livability of our houses.

There are three areas of concern that homeowners, architects and engineers should consider.

Policy - which includes building codes and planning regulations. Building codes were developed to ensure that a minimum standard is defined for health and life safety of inhabitants and the community. Although not comprehensively adopted, the International Residential Code (IRC, 2003) is the newly accepted standard for residential construction.

Design and structural concerns - which address foundation, walls, overhangs, and roofing. Keeping house volume small and construction standards high are the most effective means to ensure hurricane resistance.

Proper construction - which focuses assurance that codes are enforced and correct construction techniques and procedures are used. Proper construction for hurricane resistant building depends on connections between foundation, wall and roof, connections between walls, particularly at corners, and connections amongst all the components that make up a wall and roof.

All three of these areas should be thoughtfully resolved or respected, because if any are not, the safety of the house could be compromised, leading to damage or complete destruction.

FORESTRY

news



The Forestry Department Advisory Committee pictured from left to right (1st row) Jeff Keeton, Lynn Prine, Steve May, Dr. Jim Shepard; (2nd row) Jimmy Mordica for Everard Baker, Lloyd Young, Andrew Couch, Wayne Tucker, Larry Jarrett; (3rd row) Ben Jones, Les Shelby, Kent Davenport for Tony Dixon, Ken Martin, Steve Butler, Joe Spinks.

Not pictured: Bruce Alt, Everard Baker, Larry Brewer, Walter Dennis, Tony Dixon, John Doty, John Guthrie, Pete Roussopoulos, Brent Stinnett, Mickey Webb, Tom Wood.

MSU providing Web help for Katrina-damaged timber operations

A Web site devoted to hurricane forestry salvage operations allowed landowners, loggers and forest products companies to quickly locate each other for assistance.

Developed at Mississippi State University in September 2005, www.wssg.cfr.msstate.edu enables landowners to find or request loggers, while also providing loggers the opportunity to announce their company's capabilities and other information. Additionally, forest products companies can list their needs, including the sizes and types of wood they desire.

"Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, we received telephone calls from numerous loggers who were willing to provide contract services to landowners with timber damage from the storm," said Laura Grace, a professor in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

"In response, we designed this Web site to serve

as an avenue for communication," she added.

"Now, landowners and companies can find loggers, loggers can find companies and landowners, and everyone benefits."

Grace said the online resource initially focused on the thousands of damaged acres left in the wake of Katrina's swath through Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Following a comparably ruinous visit two weeks later by Hurricane Rita, Texas was added to the directory.

Logging companies from as far away as Alaska, California and Oregon are among more than 30 already entered into the MSU database, she said. Also entered are 11 forest products companies, some of which also are posting information on their wet-deck storage operations.

Parties without Internet access may obtain the same information by telephoning toll-free 1-866-706-8869.

MSU natural resource economist tapped for national study

A Mississippi State forestry professor is among four recently chosen by independent forest certifiers to implement a test assessment of the U.S. Forest Service's sustainable forestry practices.

Steve Grado and his professional colleagues will be making the first independent appraisal of these forests since their establishment by the Organic Act in 1897. Initially, the team will focus on Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

A member of the MSU faculty since 1995, Grado is an authority in natural resource economics and multi-use management.

The process the four Allegheny team members will use is based on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative objectives and performance guidelines developed by the American Forest and Paper Association and standards developed by the Forest Stewardship Council, an international group based in Germany. Both organizations promote the certification of private and industrial lands as well as public lands to determine if they are practicing environmentally friendly forestry.

Grado is familiar with the Allegheny Forest. A master's and doctoral degree graduate of Pennsylvania State University, he will be representing SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance that certifies under standards developed by the Forest Stewardship Council.

The test assessment of the national forests is not the sole objective of the case study. Results will be used to evaluate the consistency of forest certification with the federal agency's mission to conserve and manage federal public lands.

Accolades

The following forestry faculty and staff were recently promoted...

Clay Altizer, Research Associate II
Trey DeLoach, Extension Associate II
Britton Hatcher, Extension Associate II
Don Bales, Senior Extension Associate
Butch Bailey, Extension Associate II
Janet Dewey, Senior Research Associate
Laura Grace, Professor



New NSF grant supports MSU tree-flowering research, outreach

A major federal grant will enable university researchers to examine the regulation of genes associated with the flowering process in poplar trees.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the \$1.75 million award includes faculty collaborators in the departments of biochemistry and molecular biology, and forestry. Also involved are research colleagues at Pennsylvania State and Virginia Tech universities, universities of Alabama and Florida, and at Umea University in Sweden.

"The initiation and formation of flower buds are critical events in life cycles of trees," said co-investigator Cetin Yuceer, an assistant professor in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center. "Without flowering, there would be no seed formation for the propagation of subsequent generations."

Timely and adequate seed yields also are essential for wildlife nutrition, he explained, adding that the scientific team will conduct experiments on poplars—the only tree with a previously sequenced genome.

The goal of the research is to discover the major genes and their associated factors that regulate flowering in trees. The information gained from poplars can be applied to other tree species such as oaks and pines.

FOREST PRODUCTS

news



The Forest Products Department Advisory Committee pictured from left to right (1st row) Terry Wagner, Dr. Liam Leightley, Mike Freeman, World Nieh, Hugh Thomasson; (2nd row) Clay Lewis, Gerald Mills, Matt Vrazel, George Woodson, Tommy Henderson, Mike Ritter.

Not pictured: Steven Bean, Bill Behan, Catalino Blanche, Robert Bland, Johnnie Carlisle, Robert Cox, Jon Fiutak, Larry Homan, Walter Jarck, Gerald Mills, Terry Reynolds, Steve Rountree, Tom Ruffin, Pat Salmon, James Slay, Anderson Thomas, David Vowell, Jody Webb.

Accolades

Brian Lindsey was promoted to Research Associate II.

LaDonna Bullman was hired as Staff Assistant.

Philip Steele and Jerome Cooper received two patents in August 2004. Patent No. 6,784,671 is on a Moisture and Density Detector and Patent No. 6,784,672 is on a Through-log Density Detector.

Terry Amburgey, Michael Sanders and U.S. Forest Service employee Craig Bell received Patent No. 6,837,001 in January 2005 on Positive Directed Movement of Termites by Radio Waves as a Basis for Control Procedures.

Tor Schultz and former MAFES employee Anita Kelly received Patent No. 6,902,675 in June 2005 on Method to Control Off-flavor in Water and Aquaculture Products.



MSU scientists give termites a home of their own

Most homeowners go to a lot of trouble and expense to keep termites away. A group of Mississippi State scientists, however, is inviting the ravenous Formosan subterranean termite to come and stay for dinner.

A field test at McNeill in Pearl River County is designed to study ways to help homes and other wooden construction resist the Formosan invasion. The test site includes four wooden structures and a small laboratory.

McNeill's location is in an area of Mississippi currently infested by the Formosan termite. The expertise of MSU scientists in termite biology and wood preservation make the site an ideal location for research with control techniques.

"The McNeill site is one of the few places in the world where the termite resistance of 4-by-8 foot building panels and associated wall framing can be tested in replicated studies," said Terry Amburgey, a professor in the MSU Department of Forest Products.

Native to China and now established throughout Asia, the Formosan termite is believed to have entered the United States on ships returning from World

War II. They are thought to have entered the country through U.S. ports, including those along the Gulf Coast, as stowaways in wooden crates, pallets and various pieces of military equipment.

"For almost 40 years, the Formosan termite was a nearly invisible pest," Amburgey said. "But during the past decade, it has caused millions of dollars in damage to homes and other structures in the New Orleans area alone."

Larger in size and appetite than native termites, Formosans also don't need to go into moist soil to survive. As a result, the usual soil treatments for termite control don't always work on them.

"We have to change our approach when it comes to controlling Formosans," said research associate Michael Sanders, whose experience with Formosans began about 10 years ago when he was among a group of scientists called to Hawaii by the U.S. Navy to combat the pest in wooden poles supporting communication antennas.

One of the things the team learned in Hawaii was that the termites are attracted to active



antennas but not to those that are inactive. The MSU scientists are using that information in research with electromagnetic frequencies to lure Formosans to specific locations, including those containing bait traps.

"If we can attract them to a bait station rather than waiting for them to accidentally find one through foraging, it will be a huge advance in pest control," Sanders said.

Other research at the McNeill site includes evaluation of the effectiveness of various insecticides and of construction techniques in preventing infestations. The tests began in 2003 over termite colonies established at the site. Laboratory testing also is under way at the facility to evaluate the effectiveness of new preservative systems exposed to the termites.



TimTek update

The pilot program that began in 2003 is well on its way to becoming a commercial technology. TimTek, a patented process that makes high-strength engineered lumber from small diameter trees, has been licensed by Shuqualak Lumber Company. The company plans to open a plant soon in Meridian, creating 140 jobs directly and another 168 jobs indirectly. Over 150 beams have been tested in the pilot plant and initial results indicate that beams are testing better than necessary to pass all appropriate industry tests.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

news



The Wildlife and Fisheries Department Advisory Committee pictured from left to right (1st row) Dave Godwin, Cathy Shropshire, Jim Tisdale; (2nd row) Louie Thompson, Don Brazil, Jack Kilgore, Ben Pentecost; (3rd row) Gary Young, Dr. Bruce Leopold, Darren Miller, Trey Cooke, Bob Griffin, Curtis Hopkins.

Not pictured: Billie Joe Cross, James Cummins, Rick Dillard, Dan Grafton, Bubba Hubbard, Sam Polles.

MSU technology helped save lives on hurricane-battered coast

Mississippi State scientists used their aerial imagery and mapping skills to help rescue hundreds of stranded survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Rich Minnis and others from MSU's GeoResources Institute applied their expertise in geographic information and global positioning systems to help U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilots find and pluck nearly 300 storm victims from danger at scattered locations along the devastated Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The MSU team produced 186 maps on their first day of operation immediately after the Aug. 29 storm came ashore. That number was upped to a total of 300 by the following day.

Working on self-contained laptop computers hooked to large-format printers, Minnis said the field teams were "easily turning out 1,000 maps a day."

"We were helping with disaster response and disaster relief planning by providing detailed road maps, locating power lines that were downed by limbs, assessing damage to houses, etc." The assistant research professor of wildlife and fisheries said maps were utilized by a wide variety of disaster response entities that included the Coast Guard and fire and rescue departments from as far away as New York and California, as well as the U.S. Marines, Navy Seabees and Army National Guard.

Saving waste rice for ducks also saves dollars

A study recently completed by Mississippi State scientists recommends that farmers who leave standing stubble in rice fields after harvest may increase “waste” rice by 44 percent for waterfowl wintering in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

The five-year university investigation into various post-harvest field practices also concluded that the “waste rice”—grain escaping collection by combines—method actually can save farmers money in production costs.

“Waste-rice is a valuable nutritional commodity for wintering ducks and geese,” said Rick Kaminski, waterfowl biologist in MSU’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center. Of critical concern, however, is the amount of waste rice remaining in early winter when waterfowl typically arrive to the region in significant numbers, he added.

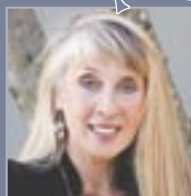
To research the issue, former wildlife and fisheries graduate student Joshua Stafford of Havana, Ill., and current graduate student Jennifer Kross of Boynton Beach, Fla., collected more than 7,000 samples from harvested rice fields throughout the Mississippi alluvial region during autumns 2000-04. Determining which post-harvest practices conserved the most rice for wintering waterfowl was one of their objectives.

“We evaluated the effects of disking, rolling, burning, mowing, and doing nothing to rice stubble after harvest,” Kross said. “These practices were chosen because earlier research revealed most rice producers used one or more of these strategies after harvest.”

On average, Kross said more waste rice—specifically, 93 pounds per acre—was found in late fall in standing stubble fields than in burned, mowed, rolled, and disked fields, which produced 65, 60, 45, and 43 pounds per acre, respectively.

“Below 45 pounds of rice per acre, mallards ‘give up’ feeding and abandon rice fields,” Kaminski explained. In addition to retaining more rice for waterfowl, leaving stubble during winter is environmentally and agriculturally beneficial, he added.

Accolades



Jeanne Jones



Wes Burger



Lou D'Abramo



Katherine Jacobs



Menghe Li



David Wise

Jeanne Jones and forestry associate professor Don Grebner received the Group Achievement Award for the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan designed for the John C. Stennis Space Center.

Wes Burger received the Southeast Quail Study Group Annual Award for his contributions to the conservation of bobwhite quail.

Lou D'Abramo received a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Freshwater Prawn and Shrimp Growers Association for his work in the establishment and promotion of the freshwater prawn industry in the U.S.

Katherine Jacobs, Extension Associate, received two Certificates of Merit from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and several awards from the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents for her work on an endangered species learning module, fisheries extension Web site, and publications on boat ramps.

Menghe Li was promoted to professor. Li is a catfish nutritionist at the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center. David Wise was promoted to research professor.

COLLEGE news



The Dean's Advisory Committee pictured from left to right (1st row) Dr. George Hopper, Chip Morgan; (2nd row) Hugh Thomasson, Bryce Griffis, Carlton Owen, Wayne Wood.

Accolades

MSU dean elected to lead national association

George M. Hopper has been voted president-elect of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs.

Hopper will serve as president of the association for a two-year term beginning January 2007.

The National Association of University Forest Resources Programs, formerly the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges, was formed in 1981 to advance the science, practice and art of forest resource management through the support of forest resource education, research, extension, and international programs at the university level. Its membership includes university faculty members, scientists and extension specialists.



photo above (l to r) Norman Kent, Reet Tanner, James Burnham, Warren Thompson



photo to the right (l to r) Billy Walker, Bryant Myatt, Jack Rhodes, and Joe Duckworth.

The College of Forest Resources is working with the MSU Libraries to archive old photographs from the last 51 years of forest resources at Mississippi State University. If you have pictures you would like to add to the collection, please send them to Debbie Gaddis, Box 9681, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Debbie will scan and return your photos.



We Need Your Help!

The College of Forest Resources has begun a recruiting campaign focusing on careers in natural resources. We need your help in ensuring the success of this campaign. We plan to feature as many alumni as possible with brief descriptions about their careers. If you are interested, please provide the following....

- Picture of you at work (high-resolution)
- Your title and company name;
- Your option, major and year of graduation;
- A quote about the College, MSU or your career.

Please send to Karen Brasher at kbrasher@cfr.msstate.edu or call for more information at 662.325.8530.



DEVELOPMENT

news

Wade siblings honor late Starkville brother with scholarship

A new endowed scholarship established at Mississippi State is a memorial by his sisters to former Starkville businessman Clyde Patrick "Pat" Wade.

Mary Martha Morgan and Carol Lynn Crouse of Starkville, and Betty Hilton of Huntsville, Texas, created the endowment for students in the university's College of Forest Resources.

Wade, a 1982 MSU business administration graduate, owned Starkville Fence Co. Following his retirement in 1999, the Oktibbeha County native turned his attention to the tree farm he had begun in the early 1980s. He died in 2005 and also is survived by his parents, SFC founder Clyde and Martha Wade.

Though he had no children of his own, Pat Wade constantly worked to teach his nieces and nephews the values of conservation, as well as the enjoyment of the land and its resources.

"Many good students do not have the financial resources to enable them to complete a university education," observed Jim Shepard, head of MSU's Forestry Department. "This generous gift in memory of Mr. Wade will help a deserving student learn the knowledge and skills for a rewarding professional career in forestry."

The Wade Memorial Endowed Scholarship is available to majors in forestry or wildlife and fisheries. Candidates also must have achieved at least sophomore classification with a 3.0 overall grade-point average (based on a 4.0 scale).

"Pat would be very pleased to know that he was lending a hand to a young person to study the subject he loved so dearly," a family member added.

For more information, contact Jeff Little, director of development for the College of Forest Resources at 662.325.8151 or jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.



Don Thompson, CFR alumni society president, presents a check to Dr. Jim Shepard, Forestry Department head, to replace trees damaged during Hurricane Rita.

MSU campus restoration under way

In September 2005, Hurricane Rita spawned a tornado that traveled across the MSU campus and caused a great deal of damage, especially to many trees on campus. When MSU alumnus David Hennington ('98) saw pictures of the destruction, he had a wonderful idea: to appeal to the alumni of the College of Forest Resources for donations to help replace these damaged trees and restore the campus to its storied beauty.

Alumna Ruth Cook offered a challenge grant at the Mississippi Forestry Association annual meeting alumni breakfast: For every cash dollar donated for planting native species of trees on the MSU campus—starting with replacing Doris Lee's memorial tree which had died, Ruth agreed to match the amount.

As a result of individual contributions from the 64 individuals who attended the meeting and Ruth's match, we raised \$1,352! Doris Lee's tree has been replaced and the remaining funds will go to first replace the damaged trees around Thompson Hall.

If you are interested in helping MSU replace the trees lost during the storm, please contact Jeff Little, director of development for the College of Forest Resources at 662.325.8151 or by e-mail at jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.

Grow a Legacy

BULLDOG FOREST

Mississippi State University



College of Forest Resources' Bulldog Forest benefits donors, students

Owning land provides individuals and families with roots, continuity and stability. Landownership also carries a responsibility to wisely manage and pass the land on to future generations.

A new program at Mississippi State—the Bulldog Forest—allows landowners to meet the responsibility of stewardship while creating a lasting legacy by giving land to the College of Forest Resources and the university.

"I was getting older and it was hard for me to manage the land," said land donor and MSU alumnus Tom Harris. "The land was handed down to me from my father and I wanted to give it to the College of Forest Resources for scholarships and to create a legacy for my family."

Forest management professionals at MSU provide professional management and assessment of each donated property. The Bulldog Forest properties are used as living laboratories where forest management practices provide teaching, research and demonstration opportunities for students, farmers and landowners.

"Students learn best from hands-on experiences," said George Hopper, dean of the College of Forest Resources. "

The Bulldog Forest provides outdoor classrooms, scholarships and new technology for classrooms, as well as helping our faculty with continuing education and professional development, Hopper added.

The college uses the best management practices for growth and harvest of timber, and the funds generated provide needed support to the college for scholarships, equipment and faculty development.

"These sound management practices are, in turn, taught to MSU students in our forestry, forest products and wildlife and fisheries programs," Hopper said.

A carefully planned gift of forestland may give financial benefits for the donor, including a lifetime income, a shield from capital gains and estate taxes, and income tax deductions, among others.

"I gave my land to Mississippi State for estate planning, looking to the future for me and my family," said donor retired Col. K.D. Johnson. "I gave it now for the tax advantages instead of giving at my death when I would get no tax advantages."

Gifts to the Bulldog Forest also are an investment in the future of students.

"My education and career were made possible because the Sharp family joined the Bulldog Forest program and created a scholarship which gave me an opportunity to pursue my passion," said Austin Carroll, wildlife manager for International Paper and a Mississippi State alumnus.

A gift of land can secure an individual's financial future and creates a legacy as each unique property in the Bulldog Forest retains the family name.

The College of Forest Resources and the MSU Foundation work with landowners and their professional financial planners to arrange the terms of gifts to suit individual needs.

For more information on the Bulldog Forest, contact Jeff Little at 662.325.8151 or by e-mail at jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.

ALUMNI

news

Dexter Criss honored with Chancellor's Award

Dr. Dexter L. Criss, associate professor of chemistry, is the recipient of the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Criss joined the SUNY Plattsburgh faculty in 1999. He received his bachelor's degree from Delta State University in 1988 and his master's and doctorate from Mississippi State University in 1994 and 1999.

Criss teaches organic chemistry and is the lead author of five publications and 13 professional presentations. He has received numerous awards and recognition from various organizations including Sigma Xi (national scientific research honors society), Who's Who Among Teachers in American Colleges and Universities and Xi Sigma Pi (national forestry honors society). He is also a member of the American Chemical Society. On campus, he is the director of the Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir and the advisor of the Chemistry Club and the African Unity Organization.

Forestry firm names new chief operating officer

Natural Resource Planning Services, Inc., is pleased to announce the appointment of Tony Wallace as chief operating officer. Wallace, a 1985 forestry graduate of Mississippi State University and a 15-year employee at NRPS, has worked in the firm as a senior forester, senior appraiser, and operations manager. Working out of the Gainesville office, his new responsibilities include directing all of the day-to-day operations of the company.

CEO and President Jack Vogel said, "The entire firm is excited about this change in NPRS' administration. Tony's experience and commitment has been essential to the firm's performance in the past and his vision will help the firm's continued growth and success in the future."

A native of Columbus, Wallace is a SAF Certified Forester, a registered forester in Georgia, and a licensed real estate sales associate in Florida.



Alumnus Gerald Inmon has produced his first autobiographical novel, *Yocona Puff Adder*. A coming-of-age story set in the turbulent era of civil rights and Vietnam, the novel chronicles the history of an unlikely relationship between a white city boy named Scott and a black country boy named C.B. The bond that develops between these two transcends the bigotry and segregation of the era.

Gerald received his bachelor's degree in forestry in 1970 and a master's in wildlife management in 1974. He has recently retired from a distinguished career as a professional forester and wildlife biologist and lives in his hometown of Oxford, with his wife of 36 years.

Yocona Puff Adder can be purchased in bookstores or by sending \$27.95 (plus \$4.95 shipping and handling) to Taylor House Publishing, 1739 University Ave., PMB 340, Oxford, MS 38655 or by phone (662) 234-2662.



We Salute Jimmy Taylor

Alumnus Jimmy Taylor received the Bronze Star Medal in award ceremonies on December 3, 2005.

Jimmy serves as a major in the 115th Brigade Combat Team of the U.S. Army National Guard unit assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jimmy recently returned home from Iraq after a 14-month tour. He was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and is authorized to wear the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

Jimmy has been a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard for 18 years and was most recently assigned as the task force operations officer in An Najaf. Prior to service in An Najaf, Taylor served as the brigade plans officer at the Marine Headquarters Group on Camp Fallujah and at the Brigade Headquarters on FOB Kalsu, where he was instrumental in improving the readiness of Iraqi Security Forces in Babil, Najaf, and Karbala Provinces.

Taylor received his bachelor's in forestry in 1992, and his master's and doctoral degrees in wildlife and fisheries in 1996 and 2001, respectively.

Alumni Calendar of Events

June 2-3, 2006	Mid-South Forestry Equipment Show, MSU campus
June 14-15, 2006	Mississippi Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting, Meridian
June 25-28, 2006	Forest Products Society Annual Meeting, New Port Beach, California.
September 10-14, 2006	American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Lake Placid, N.Y.
September 23-27, 2006	Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Anchorage, Alaska
October 25-29, 2006	Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pa.
November 5-8, 2006	Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting, Norfolk, Va.

In Memory

Don L. Hinton (Forestry, 1971) passed away November 22, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Connie Hinton.

STUDENT news



December graduates attending the CFR graduation reception are left to right (first row) Robert Hardy, Lawrence Shearer, Shelley Meador, Shannon Chunn, John Crews, Adam Wright; (second row) David Knighton, Nathan Martin, Tim Watkins, Tyler Harris, Jeremy Slade, Justin Wilkinson, Alex Harvey, Paul Taylor.

Accolades

The MSU student chapter of the Society of American Foresters placed first in the 2005 SAF Student Chapter Web Site competition and is ranked second overall in the outstanding student chapter rankings.

Nick Hatten, a forest products master's student from Wiggins, won third place at the Mississippi Water Environment Association's annual meeting for his presentation on the leaching of minerals from composting wood waste amended with chicken litter.

Dan O'Keefe, a wildlife and fisheries doctoral student from Shepherd, Mich., received the first Janice Fenske Memorial Award for Outstanding Students at the 2005 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference for his research on restoring paddlefish in Mississippi streams.

Kevin Ragon, a forest products master's student from Marks, has filed a U.S. Patent Application entitled "Termite Control Methods and Apparatus."



Alicia Wiseman (l) represents the College of Forest Resources as she presents \$216 in "pocket change for pets" to Peyton Hunter, vice president of community service for the Ladies Social Circle MSU. The CFR Student Council collected the change for the Ladies Social Circle as part of a fundraiser for the Humane Society of South Mississippi.

ALUMNI updates

1950s

William D. Walker (Forestry, 1958) retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1994 and now has his own consulting business, Walker Forestry Consultant, Inc. He is living in Hot Springs, Ark.

1960s

Wilbert Dahlem (Forestry, 1965) retired from Champion Paper in 1998 and started a consulting business with his son **Blake Dahlem** (Forestry, 1998). Wilbert and family live in Roanoke Rapids, N.C. He has four sons, three grandsons and a granddaughter.

George G. Martin (Forestry, 1967) retired as forest supervisor of the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests, Ga., in June 2000 after serving for 34 years with the U.S. Forest Service. George is currently the sole proprietor of a business providing fire and aviation services to the U.S. Forest Service and other federal and state agencies.

John V. Bass (Forestry, 1969) lives in Mexico Beach, Fla. He has been on a quest to see all 50 states, driving 13,500 miles over the summer 2005. John and family spent a month in Oregon and managed to drive through or see parts of 16 states.

1970s

Derrel R. Martin (Forestry, 1970) retired from the National Weather Service after 46½ years of federal service, including several years as "Fire Weather Meteorologist" and 26 years as the "Meteorologist in Charge" of the National Weather Service in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Currently Derrel and wife Elizabeth are living in Mount Juliet, Tenn.

Phil Adams (Forestry, 1971) is the environmental coordinator/forester for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District. Phil is working on the West Point project in West Point, Ga.

Charles J. Hagan (Forestry, 1972) and wife Patsy live in Reform, Ala. Charles is the land manager for Warrior Tractor and Equipment.

Richard E. Smith (Forestry, 1972) is the administrative forester for the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Brooksville.

Roy V. West, Jr. (Forestry, 1972) is working for Georgia Pacific Corporation and living in Laurel.

Tom L. Darden (Forestry, 1974; Wildlife and Fisheries, 1980) is the director of state and private programs in cooperative forestry

for the U.S. Forest Service Southern region.

Warren Miller (Forestry, 1974) is living in Wesson and working for Georgia Pacific Corporation.

Randy Pope (Forestry, 1974) is the president of Dixieland Forest Products Inc. in Meridian.

Tim Cannon (Forestry, 1975) is living in Tecumseh, Okla., with his wife Linda. Tim has two new steel knees and his kids and grand kids are living close to keep him busy.

Dale Oliver (Forestry, 1976) and wife JoAnn live in Vicksburg. Dale is the vice president of operations for Anderson Tully Lumber Company.

Jim Walley (Forestry, 1977) is the work-based learning cooperative coordinator at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

1980s

Darlene Slater (Forestry, 1980) is working for the Mississippi Forestry Commission and living in Pearl.

Mark Gibson (Forestry, 1981 and 1985) and wife Candice are living in Pensacola, Fla. Mark starts his 31st year of Navy

ALUMNI updates

service in 2006 and was recently promoted to captain. Mark serves as commanding officer monthly in Jacksonville while continuing his natural resources job in Pensacola.

David West (Forestry, 1984) and wife Marcie are living in Paris, Texas. David is a wood fiber superintendent for Weyerhaeuser Company.

Patrick Glass (Forestry, 1985 and 1993) is the director of operations for the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory.

Ron Seiss (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1989) is the assistant chief of wildlife division for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

1990s

Tim Brooks (Forestry, 1990) is a wildlife biologist/forester for Mossy Oak Properties Inc. Tim lives in Livingston, Ala.

John D. Enlow (Forestry, 1990) is living in Fernandino Beach, Fla. and working for Rayonier Incorporated.

Keith Lannom (Forestry, 1990 and 1992) married Karen Owen in September, 2004. The Lannoms moved to East

Tennessee early this year, where Keith is a District Ranger at the Tellico Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest. Karen works at the University of Tennessee with former MSU forestry professor Don Hodges.

Jeff Keeton (Forestry, 1991) is a forestry instructor for Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

Travis Carpenter (Forestry, 1992) is serving as the assistant refuge manager and law enforcement officer at the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge in Dugway, Utah.

Rob Haupt (Forest Products, 1992) is the global technology manager for the Paper Overlays Division of Dynea.

Bart Hawcroft (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1992) is an aquaculture specialist for the Department of Agriculture, State of Missouri.

M. Dwayne Holified (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1992) is a research farm manager for Delta Western in Indianola.

Scott W. Manley (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1994 and 1999) is the director of conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited in Missouri.

Charles M. Coker (Forestry, 1995) and wife Jennifer have a new addition: Joel Thomas Coker was born on Sept. 6, 2005. Charles is working as a harvesting forester for Georgia-Pacific Corporation and living in Brandon.

Matthew J. Gray (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1995) is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville specializing in wetland ecology.

Scott Stephens (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1995) is the director of conservation planning for Ducks Unlimited Great Plains Regional Office in Bismarck, N.D.

Kevin Sullivan (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1995) is the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia director of the U.S.D.A. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services.

Jason F. Cooksey (Forestry, 1997) is the manager of Forest Resource Consultants Inc. in Quitman.

Will Cox (Forest Products, 1997) is an account executive for Amerisafe. He is living in Madison.

William T. McKinley (Forestry, 1997; Wildlife and Fisheries, 2002) is a conservation resource

ALUMNI updates

biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in Kosciusko.

Brian Davis (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1998 and 2001) is a regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited Arkansas Field Office in North Little Rock, Ark.

Shane Jackson (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1998) is engaged to Jenny Foote and will be married on April 29, 2006. Shane is living in Falkville, Ala.

Phillip Pope (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1998) is a conservation officer in Madison County for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Seth Swafford (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1998 and 2002) is a wildlife biologist for the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services in Stoneville.

Yu Takeuchi (Forestry, 1998) is living in Raleigh, N.C. and working for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Gregory Layne Warren (Forestry, 1998) and wife Andrea are living in Jackson, Tenn. Greg is working as a forester for Tennessee Timber Consultants Inc.

Brad Young (Wildlife and

Fisheries, 1998; Forestry, 2002) is a black bear biologist for the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson.

Stephen Bass (Forestry, 1999) is a loan officer for Land Bank of North Mississippi in Starkville.

Bobby Bond (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1999) is a wildlife biologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Michael Easley (Forestry, 1999) is an FIA Forester for the Texas Forest Service in La Grange, Texas.

Bubba Groves (Wildlife and Fisheries, 1999) is a biologist and assistant manager for Nature's Catch Inc. in Clarksdale.

2000s

James R. Cooley (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000) is a conservation officer in Amite County and living in Liberty.

Chad Dacus (Forestry, 2000; Wildlife and Fisheries, 2002) is a conservation resources biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Ed Penny (Wildlife and Fisheries,

2000 and 2003) is a regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited Western Regional Office in California.

Nathan J. Renick (Forestry, 2000) is working for TimberCorp in Brandon.

Matt Vrazel (Forest Products, 2000 and 2002) is a technical service representative for Dynea USA Inc., in Springfield, Ore.

Will Bowlin (Wildlife and Fisheries 2001) is a conservation officer for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in Macon.

Freddie Davis III (Forestry, 2001) is a forester for International Paper in Lumberton, N.C.

Scott Edwards (Forestry, 2001; Wildlife and Fisheries, 2004) is working in Northeast Mississippi as a regional wildlife biologist with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Scott lives in Starkville.

Britton Hatcher (Forestry, 2001) is an extension associate in the Department of Forestry, Mississippi State University.

Jim Inglis (Wildlife and Fisheries

ALUMNI updates



2001) is a regional wildlife biologist for Pheasants Forever Inc. in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

Todd Moody (Forestry, 2001) owns a forestry consulting firm in Lucedale.

Brandon Wieme (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2001) is a biologist for Ducks Unlimited Texas Field Office in Richmond, Texas.

Mark Batson (Forestry, 2002) is a soil conservation technician for the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Eupora.

Brian Berryman (Forestry, 2002 and 2004) is a GIS manager for Forest Management Inc. in Savannah, Tenn.

Caree Crosby (Forestry, 2002) is a coastal resource management specialist for the Department of Marine Resources, Biloxi.

Nickolas Scott Hale (Forestry, 2002) and wife Andrea are living in Muscle Shoals, Ala. Nickolas is working for Weyerhaeuser Company in sales.

Beau F. Holloway (Forestry, 2002) is currently employed as a raw materials representative for

Weyerhaeuser Company. He is living in Summit.

Robert Maddox (Forestry, 2002) is employed by the Alabama Forestry Commission as a forester.

Joe Mallard (Forestry, 2002) is a loan officer for the Federal Land Bank Association of South Mississippi in Newton.

Jimmy R. McGowen (Forestry, 2002) is a forester for TimberCraft Inc., a forest management and consulting firm in DeKalb.

Neil Simpson (Forestry, 2002) is an account executive for Amerisafe in Clinton.

Sabrina D. Clark (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2003) is a manager trainee for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Savannah Coastal Refuges.

Robert Kimbrough (Forestry, 2003) is a forester for Steed Timber Company Inc. in Lincoln, Ala.

Kirk Ross (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2003) is a GIS Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District. Kirk is working

out of the Arkabutla Lake Field Office in Coldwater.

Courtney White (Forestry, 2003) is a timber buyer for Shuqualak Lumber in Shuqualak.

Ted A. Will (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2003) is a senior biologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Scott Lemmons (Forestry, 2004) is a biological science technician for the USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center at the Mississippi Field Station at Mississippi State.

Johnny Carter (Wildlife and Fisheries, 2005) is a data technician and wildlife specialist for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services at Mississippi State.

Miles Henderson (Forestry, 2005) is a procurement forester with Coastal Lumber in Stevenson, Ala.

ALUMNI updates

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

We want your news!

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Business Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Name of Business _____

Children/Grandchildren _____

Update Information _____

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

Publications via the Internet



Forestry in Mississippi—The impact of the forest products industry on the Mississippi economy: An input-output analysis (based on 2001 data)

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/foinms01.pdf

The impact of the forest and forest products sectors on the Mississippi economy.

Mississippi Urban and Community Forestry Management Manual

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/urban.pdf

A tool for civic and community leaders, municipal officials, and concerned citizens to employ sound management guidelines to address their urban and community forestry needs.

Conservation Buffers: Wildlife Benefits in Southeastern Agricultural Systems

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/buffers.pdf

Conservation practices that simultaneously remove marginal lands from production while offsetting lost opportunity costs of producers.

Waste Rice: A Critical Commodity for Wintering Waterfowl

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/wasterice.pdf

Report on a study that estimated waste-rice abundance between harvest and early winter in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

Wood furniture components: Implementation of flow-line technology based on lean manufacturing concepts

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/pubs/case3.pdf

Case study No. 3 is an example of how productivity can be increased in a furniture manufacturing organization by using flow-line technology.