

mississippi state university

College of Forest Resources

alumni newsletter

Summer 2007



CFR

Landscaping THOMPSON HALL



DEAN'S

comments

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!


Thanks to the alumni and friends who petitioned on our behalf during the spring legislative session. Our faculty, staff and students appreciate all who played a role in assisting with the recent budget hearings in Jackson. In the end, the Legislature restored funding for the Forest and Wildlife Research Center to 2001 levels. This is in no small part due to the efforts of our numerous supporters. Our state leaders have shown great confidence in the research, teaching, and extension programs. The faculty, staff and students of MSU's College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center are committed to delivering as promised, addressing the needs of the people served and the resources.

The funds that the Mississippi taxpayers have entrusted to the CFR/FWRC will be used to assist with rising utility costs, salary increases for faculty and staff, improvements in graduate education, and increased research support. Like others, the colleges' utility costs that have been escalating the last three years. Faculty and staff will receive an average 5 percent raise this year based on merit performance. This is a much deserved and valued component of the funding and will help retain the best faculty and staff and remain competitive within the region. Additionally, the college will make long-term investments in graduate education. Nine doctoral fellowships—three per department—have been funded with the increase. These fellowships will permit faculty to recruit doctoral students throughout the country and will further advance the research programs. More importantly, these fellowships will provide training for future leaders in natural resources, preparation of new experts in emerging fields, and emergence of the next generation of professors and scientists. Graduate education is so important and thanks to this additional funding, the college will become a stronger graduate school. The funding will also assist with additional research support which had been reduced in 2001 and 2003.

Special thanks to the numerous leaders who assist in guiding our programs. A newly established Bulldog Forest Advisory Board will help grow the college's endowments for timberland (see page 15). However, there is still work to be done as the Bulldog Forest program is growing with over 13,000 acres currently. This land is used as teaching laboratories and also provides scholarships, equipment and faculty/staff development from the profits derived from timber sales. The college awarded over \$88,000 in scholarships in the 2006-07 academic year, with many of these funds generated from the Bulldog Forest. Is there someone you know who may be interested in giving his/her land to the College of Forest Resources and Mississippi State University? There are so many options for donating land and the benefits include tax savings, fixed annuity for life, and charitable trusts. If you know of someone interested in contributing to the Bulldog Forest, please contact Jeff Little at 662.325.8151.

Finally, in the latter part of this newsletter are pictures of the CFR graduating classes from winter and spring. These students are young alumni and new professionals. Please look for these new faces at meetings and engage them in the profession. They want to be active and be a part, but sometimes, it is hard to know how to get involved. By getting these new alumni engaged it ensures growth of the profession and growth of the individual.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and student, thank each of you for your strong show of support, your financial gifts, and words of encouragement. We value your friendship and look forward to our next visit.



George M. Hopper
Dean



2007 Alumnus of the Year Charlie Morgan

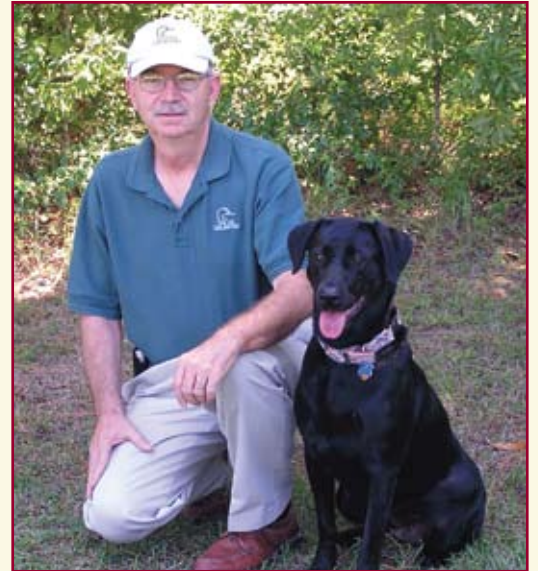
The College of Forest Resources named State Forester Charlie W. Morgan of Jackson the 2007 Alumnus of the Year. A 1973 forestry graduate and former manager with International Paper Co., he was named to the State Forestry Commission leadership post in 2006.

Under Morgan's leadership, the commission began reorganizing during fiscal year 2006. As a result, the commission has taken a business management approach to agency operations.

2006 Alumni Fellow Curtis Hopkins

The College of Forest Resources 2006 Alumni Fellow is Curtis Hopkins of Jackson. Hopkins is the conservation program director for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office and a 1971 forestry graduate. He received a master's degree in wildlife ecology in 1973 from MSU and earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

Hopkins has been employed by Ducks Unlimited Inc. for the last 26 years. In his current position, he oversees wetland and upland habitat conservation across 15 states.



Accolades

Receiving 2006 faculty awards are (l-r) wildlife and fisheries assistant professor **Kevin Hunt** for teaching, forestry associate extension professor **Debbie Gaddis** for service, and wildlife and fisheries associate professor **Eric Dibble** for research.



Administrative assistant **Angela Hill** (l) and **Laura Andrews**, assistant to the director of the Berryman Institute, both received 2006 Doris Lee Memorial Staff Awards.

THOMPSON HALL

Landscaping



Thompson Hall is in full bloom, thanks to the hard work of Dr. Bob Brzuszek's landscape design class and the facilities maintenance crew. Phase I of Thompson Hall included planting of native plants in the front and side entrances. The plants are a nice feature around the water garden.

Benches have been installed around the water feature to create a nice place for students, faculty and staff to gather and visit. The additions have given Thompson Hall much needed curb appeal.

Native species planted at Thompson Hall include:

- Blue Aster and Stokes Aster
- Blue Sedge Horsetail
- Carolina Jasmine
- Chain Fern
- Coreopsis
- Fringe Tree
- Louisiana Iris
- Native Azalea
- Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Obedient Plant
- St. John's Wort
- Sweetspire
- Verbena
- Viburnum
- Yellow Coneflower



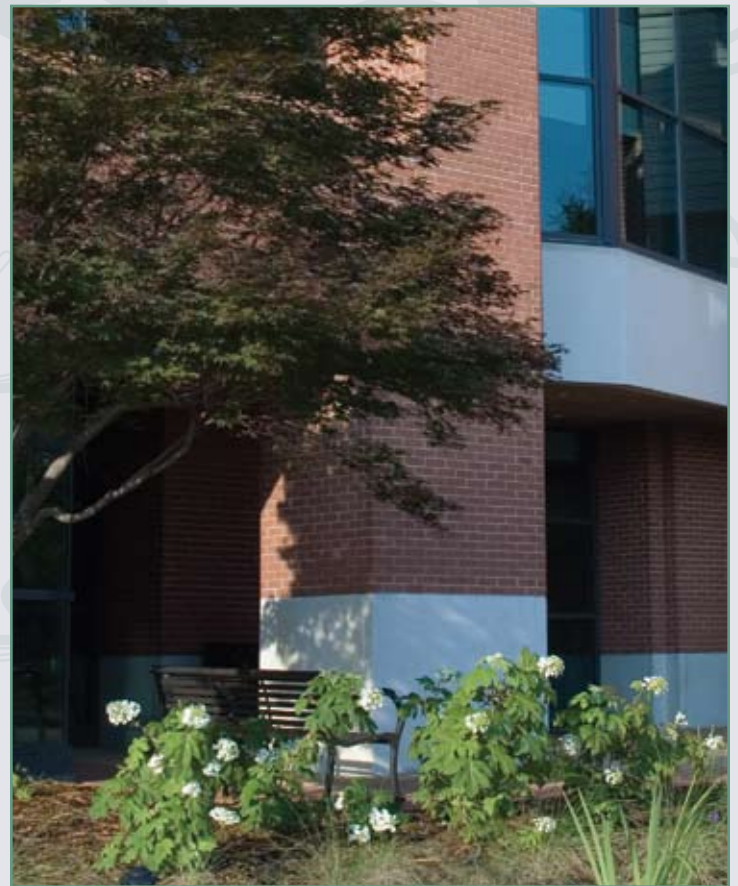


Future plans include replacing non-native and exotic plants with native plants on the east side of the main entrance to the building.

About 120 hardwood and conifer trees were planted at the Forest Products Laboratory and the Franklin Center. The facilities maintenance crew planted trees ranging in height from a little more than three feet to some in excess of 25 feet.

The species planted include:

- American Hornbeam
- Live Oak
- Loblolly Pine
- Nuttall Oak
- Overcup Oak
- River Birch
- Spruce Pine
- Red Maple
- Swamp White Oak
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Willow Oak



FORESTRY

news



Thirty-three students are attending the summer field program this year. The eight-week course includes Introduction to Forest Communities, Forest Description and Analysis, Forest Operations and Harvesting, and Wildlife and Fisheries Practices.

Midrotation pine management benefits landowners, wildlife

When it comes to competition, athletic fields are not the only arenas in Mississippi. The state's three million acres of plantation pine are sites of fierce competition for available sunlight and nutrients.

Undesirable hardwoods in the understory of the plantations compete with pines and wildlife, said MSU forestry professor Andy Ezell.

"Forest managers know that managing competition is essential for timber production and quality, but it's often overlooked that undesirable trees in pine plantations impact wildlife habitat," Ezell said.

Ezell, along with wildlife scientists Steve Demarais and Wes Burger, have studied how thinning, selective herbicide use and prescribed burning can improve both timber production and wildlife habitat quality.

"Wildlife populations are influenced by the structure and composition of plant communities, so specific habitat requirements of targeted wildlife species must

be understood and emphasized in planning," Demarais said. "Conditions that limit sunlight and nutrients for pine production also degrade habitat quality for these wildlife species."

Midrotation thinning allows sunlight to reach the understory for several years, and the sunlight improves wildlife habitat on the forest floor. A pine plantation reaches the midrotation period in about 15 years.

The heavier the thinning, the longer sunlight can promote wildlife habitat. Dense, undesirable hardwoods capture sunlight and compete for resources with pines. Removal of undesirable hardwoods with the selective herbicide imazapyr eliminates this problem. In addition, prescribed fire eliminates the pine straw litter and promotes germination of beneficial plant communities.

The MSU research also found that mid-rotation removal of dense, undesirable hardwoods significantly increases pine height and diameter growth.

Accolades



Brenda Grebner



Curt Collins



Debbie Gaddis



Stephen Grado



Chuan-Yu Hsu



Tim Traugott

Brenda Grebner, administrative assistant, received the Zacharais Distinguished Staff award in the support staff category. Brenda has accepted a position as administrative assistant II in the Bagley College of Engineering Dean's Office. She has been an indispensable member of the Department of Forestry since 1981.

Curt Collins was promoted to research associate II.

Debbie Gaddis, associate extension professor, was named the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Forest Conservationist of the Year.

Stephen C. Grado has been named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

Chuan-Yu Hsu, research associate, received the Research Support Staff Award from the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development.

Tim Traugott, extension forestry specialist, was named the 2007 Forest Landowners Association Extension Forester of the Year.

Turkey hunting enthusiasts

Twenty-one kids and three guides went on a real turkey hunt as part of the Spring Break Youth Camp at Tara Wildlife, in Warren county.



The camp, hosted by Extension Forestry, was designed to expose students to natural resources. Of 51 kids in the camp, 21 met at the lodge at 5 a.m. to hunt the elusive gobbler. The night prior to the hunt, a lottery system was used to determine the child who would actually hunt with a gun in hand.

"We heard birds early, but all way off in the distance, (at least the younger ears were hearing them)," said Don Bales, extension forestry associate. "After walking about three-fourths of a mile, we carefully approached the gobblers and made the final plan."

The hunter, guide and camera man set up on the gobbling birds in a grassy road and the other 20 children were all hidden about 60 yards up the road, Bales added.

As luck would have it, the two gobblers approached the hunters from the slough about 50 yards off the road and were heading as if they would walk past the hunter and into the laps of the 21 of us who were set up behind the gunner.

The head guide made a timely move and repositioned his hunter, 14-year-old Kyle Craig of Scott County, and prepared him for the approach of the two gobblers. A skillful call at just the right time pulled the birds into shotgun range, but out of sight of the entourage up the road. At the report of the shotgun, all 20 children ran to the downed turkey screaming loudly as they ran.

"I will never forget the sight of all of those kids gathered around the successful hunter and guide in the Mississippi Delta hardwoods," Bales said. "I think we created some turkey hunting junkies."

FOREST PRODUCTS

news



Forest products students have been traveling throughout Mississippi on the two-week industry tour. The tour included visits to Weyerhaeuser Pulp, Domtar, Homan Industries, Koppers Inc., Batesville Casket, Franklin Furniture, Masonite, Penecke Forest Products, and Norboard.

Research tunes in on termites

Research by Mississippi State scientists has yielded a new weapon in homeowners' battle with wood-destroying termites.

Terry Amburgey, forest products professor, and employees of the U.S. Forest Service were called to Hawaii by the U.S. Navy about 14 years ago to combat infestations of Formosan termites in wooden poles supporting communications antennas at a naval base.

While there, the group discovered that termites are attracted to active antennas but not those that are inactive. The findings in Hawaii led to a series of experiments by Amburgey, MSU research associate Mike Sanders and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service lab technician Craig Bell.

"We documented that subterranean termites are attracted to electric fields of certain wavelengths," Amburgey said. "We patented, through the university, the technology used in the initial research."

A decade later, Kevin Ragon, a doctoral student

under Amburgey's direction, developed experiments demonstrating that native termites and the exotic and extremely destructive Formosan species are attracted to certain electric wavelengths.

Additional research led to another MSU patent based on the work by Ragon, Amburgey, Sanders and MSU electrical engineering professor Pat Donohoe, who helped determine the exact frequency and intensity needed to alter termite behavior.

"We created a device to emit the exact frequencies required to manipulate termite behavior," Ragon said. "Research shows that termites communicate through vibrations. The frequencies used in the patented MSU technology mimic these vibrations, which attract termites."

The technology has been licensed to Ragon, fellow forest products doctoral student Shane Kitchens and Amburgey. They have formed TermiSys Technologies to handle the business end of the development of the

Graduate student Joseph Dahlen and Rubin Shmulsky are testing and developing a new state-of-the-art sensor (model below) that monitors air pollution emitted during wood drying. The project is being funded by the National Science Foundation through a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research grant.



technology.

"The fact that termites are random foragers has always been the Achilles' Heel of termite baiting systems," Kitchens explained. "Because of that, many building sites are still treated with traditional liquid termiticides that require several hundred gallons of the product be applied for subterranean termite control."

The TermiSys technology, he added, will make bait stations more effective by using electric wavelengths to draw the insects to the bait and increase the bait acceptance.

"The TermiSys system is a green technology because it cuts down significantly on the amount of insecticide needed to protect a building from termite damage," Kitchens said.

Accolades



Jason Leng



Tori Meredith



Amy Rowlen



Michael Sanders



Terry Amburgey



Michael Barnes



Tor Schultz



Rubin Shmulsky



Linda Sites



David Strobel

Jason Leng was promoted to senior research associate.

Tori Meredith was hired as an accounting assistant II.

Amy Rowlen was promoted to research associate II.

Michael Sanders, research associate III, and professors **Terry Amburgey** and **Michael Barnes**, received a patent for the invention entitled, "Delivery System for Supplemental Wood Preservative and/or Metal Corrosion Inhibition Treatment."

Tor P. Schultz, professor, is a new Fellow of the American Chemical Society's Cellulose and Renewable Materials Division.

Rubin Shmulsky was granted tenure in the department. Rubin was also recently named interim department head of forest products.

Linda Sites was promoted to research associate III.

David Strobel, research associate III, retired after 25 years of service.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

news



Fisheries biologist Don Jackson (r) and post-doctoral student Dan O'Keefe worked in misty weather to scientifically tag young catfish. They are working with state government colleagues on a project to provide some 16,000 university-raised fish for restoration of hurricane-ravaged waterways in South Mississippi.

MSU scientists study wild hog management

Feral hogs have perhaps the worst reputation of any wild game animal in the nation, and Mississippi State researchers hope to gain the upper hand by studying their habitat and populations.

While hunters enjoy pursuing these elusive and sometimes dangerous animals, most landowners view wild hogs as nuisances because of their extremely destructive habits.

"One of the primary problems with feral hogs is that they root the soil in search of food, causing various problems in both agricultural and natural settings," said Sam Riffell, MSU wildlife and fisheries assistant professor. "This type of behavior can cause soil erosion, destroy native plant communities, reduce nesting cover and available forage for other wildlife species, and cause economic damage to crops."

In addition to consuming vegetation, feral hogs can carry diseases that may be passed to livestock, humans and other wildlife.

To determine ways to better manage feral hogs, Riffell and graduate student Clay Hayes initiated a research project through the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Hayes, a native of Milton, Fla., examined the home range, habitat use and survival of 29 feral hogs in Central Mississippi. From April 2005 through April 2006, Hayes trapped and radio-collared the hogs and then located them two to three times per week using radio telemetry.

"Our study found that several factors influence habitat use by wild hogs," Hayes said. "First, because hogs have no sweat glands, they prefer moist areas during hot weather and may become primarily nocturnal during the hottest parts of the year."

Other factors include food availability and a need for cover, Hayes added.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Mississippi Agricultural

Accolades

and Forestry Experiment Station, and the Berryman Institute at MSU, the study revealed that rainfall also influences home range size. In general, the home ranges in this study were larger during the dry season than the wet, possibly due to seasonal flooding of some areas within the home range.

"Understanding the home range of feral hogs is important for minimizing negative interactions between feral hogs and native wildlife," Hayes explained.

"Managers need to know what types of habitat the hogs use, as well as how large an area they roam."

At the end of the year-long study, 14 of the 29 radio-collared hogs were still alive. Hunting or trapping was the cause of mortality for 12 of the 15 hogs that did not survive.

"Hunting, trapping and harassment may be the best tools managers and landowners have to reduce damage to sensitive areas," Hayes said. "Private landowners may legally take hogs on their property at any time of the year, whereas state wildlife management areas have seasons."

Hogs tend to move from areas where they are heavily disturbed into more peaceful surroundings. For this reason, the MSU researchers found that hunting with dogs may be particularly effective if the object is to remove a few animals and cause the remaining ones to relocate.

"Hunting feral pigs is usually relatively safe because these animals are elusive and have excellent senses of hearing and smell, but if you wound one, corner one or happen upon a sow with young, watch out," Hayes said. "Because of their size, speed and tusks, wild hogs can be quite dangerous."

Hunting with dogs bred and trained for hog hunting is usually safest, he added, but dogs used to hunt wild hogs should be equipped with heavy vests to limit chances of injury. Larger caliber (above .243) repeating rifles are best because the bullet must penetrate a tough hide, a lot of muscle and quite a bit of cartilage around the shoulders.

"If you happen upon a feral hog unarmed, try not to spook it," Riffell warned. "Because they have poor eyesight, they may run over you if panicked. It is best to back away slowly."

Though feral hogs are widespread and extremely damaging to natural and agricultural habitats, current knowledge is comparatively limited, Riffell added.

Through studies like these, scientists provide a stronger foundation upon which to base management decisions.



Louis D'Abramo



Eric Dibble



Jeanne Jones



Kevin Hunt

Louis R. D'Abramo, received the university's 2007 Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award. The Powe award annually recognizes faculty researchers making important contributions to the economic welfare or cultural growth of the university, state and nation. It is a campus memorial to the alumnus and longtime research vice president who died in 1996. D'Abramo also recently received a meritorious award recognizing outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the National Shellfisheries Association.

Eric Dibble, associate professor, received the Faculty Research Award from the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development. Dibble also was promoted to the rank of professor.

A new painting by associate professor **Jeanne Jones** is being used to benefit Bear Education and Restoration Mississippi. The artist's limited-edition signed and numbered prints of a mother bear with two cubs are being offered for sale to aid the Rolling Fork-based non-profit organization.

Kevin Hunt was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor.

COLLEGE news



The College of Forest Resources bids farewell to longtime employee Keith Belli. During his 18-year tenure, Belli held the titles of professor, associate dean, associate director, and interim head of forest products. He has accepted the position of head of the department of forestry, wildlife and fisheries at the University of Tennessee. A send-off reception was held in the Franklin Furniture Center where Dean George Hopper presented Belli with his and her matching orange sweatshirts. Rick Kaminski has taken on the role of interim associate dean. Liam Leightley has assumed the role of interim associate director.



SUPER BULLDOG WEEKEND

March 31, 2007





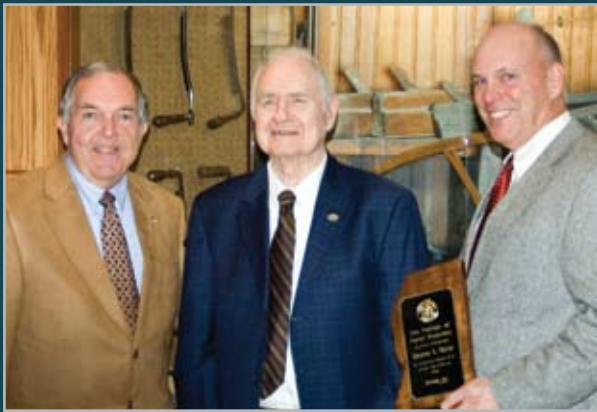
The CFR Dean's Student Council provides the means for the exchange of information and ideas among the student body, faculty and administration. It coordinates and supports activities that enhance professional growth and social welfare of CFR students and provides counsel to the dean on academic and extracurricular aspects of student life. The 2006-07 council (left to right, bottom to top): advisor Rachel Singleton, Erin Adams, Jackie Zimmerman, Stacey Stroud, Seiji Miyazono, Emily Comfort, Jennifer Hood, (second row) Brett Cates, Matt Brock, Nathan Irby, Jaysen Hogue, Orlando Ellerby, (third row) Tedrick Ratcliff, and Dustin Whitehead. Not pictured: James Callicutt, Aaron Posner, Dawn Manning, Paul Jeffreys, and Beth LaValley.

The Natural Resources Summer Camp was a success this year with 27 high school students in attendance. Hosted by the College of Forest Resources and the Mississippi Forestry Commission, the camp offers high school students a hands-on experience in environmental stewardship and management, part of the broad field of natural resources.



DEVELOPMENT

news



A special ceremony was held recently at Mississippi State to honor Pontotoc native Shannon Carter. Carter donated an antique tool collection to the College of Forest Resources and the Pontotoc County Historical Society. An avid wood worker, Carter founded Carter Wood Products in Starkville, which later became Howard Furniture Manufacturing Co. Vance Watson, vice president for the division of agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine, (l) and George Hopper, CFR dean, thank Carter for his generous donation to the university.

Gifts of land provide long-term benefits

For LaRon and Ester Gober, a gift of forestland seemed like the perfect way to give back to Mississippi State. The Gobers donated 283 acres in Attala County to the College of Forest Resources and the Bagley College of Engineering.

The Gobers made the gift in honor of the engineering career enjoyed by LaRon, as well as the enjoyment they received from the forestland. Students in both colleges benefit from the LaRon and Esther Gober Endowment Fund.

"We love the idea of using this land to benefit forestry and engineering students. It was a great way to give back to Mississippi State University," said Ester Gober.

The Gobers are just one example of individuals creating a legacy with gifts of land at MSU.

Gifts of land can benefit any of the university's nine colleges. The donated properties are managed by the College of Forest Resources using the best management practices for growth and harvest of timber.

"Forest and wildlife management professionals

at MSU provide professional management and assessment of each donated property," said Jeff Little, CFR development officer. "Funds generated from the properties provide needed support to the university for scholarships, equipment and faculty development."

The properties also are used as living laboratories where forest management practices provide teaching, research and demonstration opportunities for students, farmers and landowners.

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

For more information on donating your land to the university, contact Jeff Little at (662) 325-8151 or jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.

Grow a Legacy
BULLDOG FOREST
Mississippi State University

www.cfr.msstate.edu/bulldogforest

Urban forestry scholarship established

Urban forestry is becoming increasingly important throughout the nation as cities and towns consider the numerous benefits of trees. In Mississippi alone, 29 communities have been designated as Tree City, USA, by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

As the need for trees in towns becomes more apparent, demand for trained urban foresters continues to rise.

"Currently, there are not enough urban foresters to fill the numerous positions available in cities and towns across the nation," said Steve Grado, professor in the department of forestry. "A scholarship to encourage students to pursue urban forestry is both timely and relevant."

In August 2006, the Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Urban Forest Council established the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship at MSU to address need for trained professionals in urban forestry.

"The scholarship is for a junior or senior student in the urban forestry option of the forestry major with an interest in arboriculture and a grade-point average of

at least 3.0," said Sue Buckalew, secretary/treasurer of the arborist association.

The scholarship honors deceased members of the association, Buckalew added.

The recipient should be a junior or senior, and preference will be given to junior college transfer students and students whose interests lie in tree care and urban forestry.

The Professional Arborist Association of Mississippi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the future health and vitality of urban forests by promoting public awareness, good stewardship, continuing education, professional training and adherence to best practices in the field of arboriculture.

Mississippi Urban Forest Council is a nonprofit organization aimed at fostering and promoting proper management of urban forests for social, economic and environmental benefits to people through innovation, leadership, communication and educational services.

If you are interested in contributing to the Arboriculture/Urban Forestry Memorial Scholarship, contact Jeff Little at 662-325-8151 or jlittle@foundation.msstate.edu.



The Bulldog Forest Advisory Board met in May. The board is newly created to offer suggestions and guidance on helping build endowments for scholarships, professorships and equipment through the gift of land. Advisory board members include (first row, l to r) Tom and Paige Harris, (second row) Charles Dismukes, Skip McCollough, Charles Burkhardt, (third row) Gary Blair, Lynn Prine, Jeff Little, (back row) George Hopper, Bill Tomlinson, and Steve Butler. Not pictured are Walt Starr, Ruth Cook, Wade Allen and Steve May.

ALUMNI

news



Alum appointed vice president for external affairs at JCJC

Jones County Junior College recently appointed Jim Walley as vice president for external affairs.

"We've hired the most talented person for this position. I'm confident in his ability, and together, we are going to move the college in the right direction," said JCJC President Jesse Smith.

In his new position, Walley (Forestry, 1977; MA, '81) is responsible for business and industry development, coordinating funding activities, regulatory and legislative matters, and assisting the president in obtaining federal grants.

Prior to the appointment, Walley served as forestry instructor for 25 years. The Mississippi-registered forester is a board member of the Mississippi Forestry Association, has served as a Mississippi SAF state chair, and has been recognized as an SAF Fellow.

Recently, Walley was instrumental in receiving a grant for the campus multi-purpose walking trail. The walking trail, projected to be a 10-foot-wide asphalt surface following the perimeter of the campus lake, will be one-half mile in length and is designed for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and in-line skaters. An additional grant was obtained to renovate the lake.

Moon Holler Misfits Fishing & Hunting Club

Jimmy Moore (Forestry, 1964) released *Moon Holler Misfits Fishing & Hunting Club* in March 2004. Sales were so good that a second printing has been ordered. The book is available at amazon.com and other book dealers.

Moore, a Waco, Texas, native was raised in Alabama and enjoyed reading the humor of legendary outdoor story tellers Corey Ford and Robert Ruark.

"Their humor kindled my lifelong love affair with fishing and hunting," said Moore.

Today, it's about the "how to", "where to", and "when to", with very little of the old-time stories, Moore added.

Moore wrote this book to rekindle interest in classic outdoor humor, which has dwindled.

"I will continue writing humorous outdoor tales, those that tell of what went on during the trip, the humorous things that happened and the lessons learned," Moore said.

Old Main Burning

Joe Woods (Forestry, 1963)

presented President Robert Foglesong and Charles Guest copies of his latest novel, *Old Main Burning*, during homecoming celebrations at Mississippi State. The backdrop for this novel is the disastrous fire that razed Old Main Dormitory.

This is Woods' third published novel, with two more waiting in the wings. The manuscript for his fourth, *Escape from New Orleans*, is completed and he is shopping it around in hopes of attracting a large publishing company.

His novels are available at major booksellers and by e-mail at jwoods@cablelynx.com.

Woods retired from federal service in October 2003. In addition to continuing his writing passion, he has begun a consulting business and enjoying that new challenge.

He has two grandchildren: Lauren, 11, and Bailey, 7. They are children of his youngest son, also a graduate of MSU.



Accolades

Cpl. **Will Bowlin** (wildlife and fisheries, 2001) received Conservation Officer of the Year from the Mississippi Wildlife Federation.

Louisiana's Conservation Officer of 2006 is **Chris Carpenter** (wildlife and fisheries, 2001). Carpenter received the honor at the annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour publicly commended the Mississippi Forestry Commission and its employees for their ongoing agency reorganization and efficiency improvements. Under the leadership of State Forester **Charlie Morgan** (forestry, 1973), the MFC began a reorganization during fiscal year 2006.

Kevin Sullivan (wildlife and fisheries, 1995) recently received the Dick Winters Award. This award is the highest that the USDA Wildlife Services Eastern Region bestows on its employees for service and exemplary performance.

Josh Vest (wildlife and fisheries, 1999; wildlife and fisheries, 2002) was chosen as recipient of the Stokes-Aldo Leopold Memorial Award at Utah State University where he is in the final year of his Ph.D.

Keith M. Weaver (wildlife and fisheries, 1986), was recently selected as the new project leader for the Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex, headquartered in Dixie, Ark.



IN MEMORY



Gravis Wilton Alexander Jr. (forestry, 1964)
Gravis Wilton Alexander Jr., 66, died February 7, 2007, in Beaumont, Texas. A native of Long Beach, he was a longtime resident of Silsbee. He worked as a forester for Kirby Lumber Co. for 21 years.

Nathan L. Gully (forestry, 1962)
Nathan L. Gully, 85, died December 31, 2006 at G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veteran's Hospital. A retired State Forestry Commission forester, Gully was a native of Neshoba County and served in the United States Navy.

Bonnie Gunter, wife of former dean and forestry professor John Gunter, died May 5, 2007.

Leon McKee (forestry, 1973)
Leon McKee, 55, died December 16, 2006, at home in Meridian. He worked with the Leaf River Lumber Co., and Weyerhaeuser from 1973-1978. He joined the Molpus Co. in Philadelphia in 1978 as logging supervisor. In 1983 he became the president and

manager of Molpus Forest Products and served as a longtime member of the board of directors of the company.

Frank Woodruff Shropshire (forestry, 1960)
Frank Woodruff Shropshire, 74, died December 22, 2006, in Jackson. The quintessential free spirit, he was an individual who made life an exciting adventure for all who were fortunate enough to know him. He is remembered by his family as a very optimistic, fun-loving person, who enjoyed hunting and fishing with his family and friends as a pastime. Shropshire was stationed in the U.S. Air Force for four years during the Korean War. For 25 years he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service and retired from that agency as Southeastern Hardwood Specialist in 1985. For 10 years he was employed as district forester with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, retiring in 1995.

Tom Wallace, long-time forest operations employee, died January 17, 2007, at his home from an accidental gun shot wound.

STUDENT

news



Introducing the graduating classes of December 2006 (above) and May 2007 (below).



Accolades

Amber Breland, wildlife and fisheries undergraduate student, was named the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Youth Conservationist of the Year.

Sarah Gallagher, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received the Outstanding Student Poster Presentation at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Her poster was entitled, "Factors influencing amphibian abundance and richness in riparian habitats in east-central Mississippi."

Michael R. Guttery, forestry graduate student, received the outstanding student paper award at the 14th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference. His research evaluated regeneration and waterfowl forage potential in an Arkansas greentree reservoir; specifically, the production of willow oak acorns.

Tyler Harris, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received the Best Poster Award at the Southeast Mammal Colloquium and the Southeast Bat Diversity Network meeting. His poster was entitled, "Effects of mammalian herbivory on seedlings planted for hardwood reforestation in the lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Mississippi."

Nate Hodgins, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received second place for the best student presentation at the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. His presentation was entitled, "Growth of Black Carp at different temperatures."

Jaysen Hogue, forestry undergraduate student, received a scholarship trip to the Association of Consulting Foresters national conference in Stevens Point, Wis.

Shane Kitchens and **Kevin Ragon**, forest products graduate students, along with professor **Terry Amburgey**, received the first Thad Cochran Endowment for Entrepreneurship. The award is based on the discovery of new termite-control technology.

Tedrick Ratcliff, forestry undergraduate student, and **Orlando Ellerby**, forestry graduate student, received the 2007 Spirit of State Award. The university's premier student award, the Spirit of State award, recognizes exceptional personal contributions to student life at Mississippi State.

Amy Spencer, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received third place for the best student presentation and second place, people's choice, for student presentation at the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. Her presentation was entitled, "A spatial analysis of aquatic habitat change on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway."

Heather Theel, wildlife and fisheries graduate student, received first place for the best student presentation at the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting. Her presentation was entitled, "Hydrilla's altering effects on aquatic habitat complexity and fish foraging behavior."

David W. "Dave" Wilkinson, forestry graduate student, received the outstanding student poster competition award 14th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference. His research measured the response of thinned pine plantations to competition following a fertilization treatment.

ALUMNI updates

1960s

Earl Alford (forestry, 1966) and his wife Pauline have a new grandson, courtesy of son Mac and daughter-in-law Dragana. Born Oct. 21, 2006, his name is Stefan Philip Alford, and he weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

1970s

David “Dave” Shore (forestry, 1976) and wife Jan are living in Rolla, Mo. He is a forester and timber sale contracting officer for the U.S. Forest Service Mark Twain National Forest. The Shores have four children and were expecting their first grandchild in June.

Malone Buchanan (forestry, 1977) and wife Sandra live in Carthage. Malone is a procurement forester for International Paper.

Kathleen Flanagan Payment (forestry, 1978) and husband Tim are living in Huntsville, Ala. Both sons graduated from MSU in May. The Payments are entering the empty nest stage, with all three children on their own. They have one grandchild, courtesy of their daughter.

1980s

Diane “Giggles” Oliver (forestry, 1984) is a missionary currently living in Orlando, Fla. After graduation she worked with the U.S. Forest Service for approximately 20 years. She worked in Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri. She ended her career with an early departure in 1998 from the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, where she had served as the recreation assistant ranger managing the largest recreation program in Missouri. She departed the USA for Costa Rica to learn Spanish and teach English as a second language. After two years in Costa Rica, she moved to Nicaragua to serve Hosanna Church in Managua. She worked with finances, feeding programs, prison ministry, and various other duties. After two years in Nicaragua she moved to Northern Asia in China to work with orphans. She studied Mandarin Chinese and served in China for three years. Oliver is currently in the U.S. working to raise a budget to return to northern Asia to work with orphans. She says that she is doing what she was born to do and has never been happier.

Edward J. White (forestry, 1984) and wife Gina are living in Bay Springs. Ed owns White Forestry Land where he buys timber and is a consultant.

1990s

Laura G. Tiu (wildlife and fisheries, 1990) and husband Jose live in Waverly, Ohio. She is an aquaculture specialist at Ohio State University.

Mark Smith (wildlife and fisheries, 1994; wildlife and fisheries, 2001; wildlife and fisheries, 2004) is an assistant professor/extension specialist at Auburn University.

Chris W. Furr (forestry, 1998) and wife Kathryn are living in Drasco, Ark. Chris is a natural resource specialist at the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest.

Russell “Rutt” Pipkins (forestry, 1998) is currently living in Demopolis, Ala. with wife Becky, son Tyler, 5 and daughter Tayler, 2. Since graduation he has been employed with Alabama River Woodlands as a district procurement forester.

Andrew J. Sanchez Meador (forestry, 1999; forestry 2002) is living in Fort Collins, Ariz., with his wife Katherine. He is a biometrician for the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Management Service Center. Meador received his Ph.D. in forest science from North Arizona University in 2006.

ALUMNI updates

2000s

Jimmy Griffin (forest products, 2000) is living in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and working as a technical advisor for the Rock-Tenn Corp.

Tim Knight (forestry, 2000; forestry, 2003) a USDA Forest Service professional, has been appointed Timber Manager for the Jessieville, Winona, and Fourche Ranger Districts on the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas. He is based in the Jessieville office.

Scott Edwards (forestry, 2001; wildlife and fisheries, 2004) and wife Lydia are living in Starkville. He is a wildlife biologist for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Robert Bryan Fedrick (wildlife and fisheries, 2003) and wife Rebecca live in Clinton. He is an associate biologist at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Philip Hollimon (forestry, 2003) and wife Colleen live in Madison. He is a landman/attorney at law for Denbury Resource, Inc. Upon graduating with a degree in forestry, Hollimon attended Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. During his three years at MCSOL, he worked at various law firms

in the Jackson area but went to work for an oil and gas company upon graduation in May 2006. He officially began work for Denbury in August 2006 and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in October 2006. At Denbury, he coordinates surface operations between landowners and the company, specifically in areas of well site acquisition and pipeline easements throughout West Mississippi.

Matthew Cole (forestry, 2004) and wife Jennifer are living in Toombsville. He is working for Mid-South Lumber in Meridian as a procurement forester.

Ronald Glynn Sweet (forest products, 2004) is living in Warner Robins, Ga., and working for Norbord Georgia Inc. as an assistant quality manager.

Alex Harvey (forestry, 2006) is now a trainee forester with the USFS in Alleghany National Forest. He will be there for several more months. The Mississippi native (from Utica) has been cruising timber with snow shoes this past winter. He's glad that spring has arrived! You can contact Harvey at 814-927-6629, extension 170 or by e-mail at aaharvey@fs.fed.us.

Retired Faculty

Dr. Dale Arner suffered a slight stroke. He is convalescing at home and improving daily. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:

Dr. Dale Arner
209 Seville Place
Starkville, MS 39759

Randy Robinette retired on April 30 from Colorado State University where he served as department head of fish, wildlife and conservation biology for seven years and as research associate dean for the Warner College of Natural Resources for the past year. He and wife, Marge, plan to stay in the Fort Collins area (primarily because Marge and daughter, Jennifer, are joined at the hip---Jenny lives a short distance away). However, Randy plans to make more trips to Mississippi and of longer duration to enjoy his "swamp." They would love to have company, so if planning a trip through Colorado, please do not hesitate to get in contact with them (rrobin6452@aol.com).

ALUMNI society

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Employability is not about having a job, but rather about having skills, abilities and knowledge to obtain a good job. To improve student employability skills, the college has begun a new professional experience program. This program allows CFR students the opportunity to gain professional related job experience during time spent out of the normal academic setting. The program is designed to increase the competency of students in critical thinking, problem-solving and professional development. Would you help a CFR student gain the employability skills needed to compete? If you are interested in providing a summer job, internship or any type of professional experience, please contact Jennifer Hood at 662.325.0855 or by e-mail at jhood@cfr.msstate.edu.



Are **YOU** Connected to the CFR Alumni Society?



The CFR Alumni Society has a new list serve to keep alumni connected with up-to-date news and information. If you would like to join the list serve, please go to www.cfr.msstate.edu/cfr/html/alumandfriends/ and update your alumni information.

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 _____



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