



College of Forest Resources

n e w s l e t t e r

SPRING 2004



NEW RESEARCH CENTER — Commemorating the formal Jan. 23 opening of the Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management were (l-r) Gov. Haley Barbour; MSU President Charles Lee; furniture executive Hassell Franklin; and Dr. Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine. Franklin, president and chief executive officer of Houston-based Franklin Corp., made a \$1 million signature contribution for construction of the center that bears his name.

FOREST
RESOURCES

Dean's Comments

Fifty Years! Yes, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the College of Forest Resources. My goodness, it seems only yesterday that we were celebrating the college's 25th anniversary.

What started as a few farm forestry courses in the 1930s has evolved into the College of Forest Resources with departments of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Forest Products. The college was first recognized by the university as a professional program in 1954 with the naming of the School of Forestry.

We can all look with pride at the contributions that the college has made to the management of Mississippi's natural resources and its environmental quality and to economic development. More importantly, we can look at the thousands of men and women trained in natural resources. Our alumni are employed in high ranking positions throughout the industry. From entrepreneurs, to managers of manufacturing facilities, to managers of national parks and refuges, the CFR can boast of the students it has educated and guided.

The 50th Anniversary Committee is working diligently preparing for our celebration. Throughout the year, events will be planned to bring alumni and friends home to celebrate. I hope you can join us for some of the activities, including the culmination of the celebration on Sept. 24, 2004. Watch our Web site for exciting details.

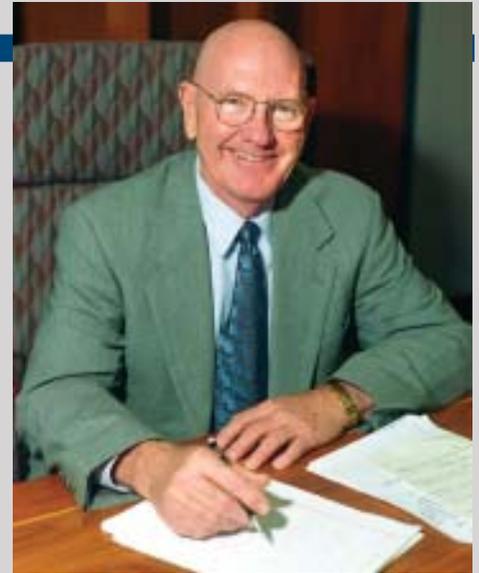
Many things have changed in the past 50 years. The global economy and marketplace impact forest resources all over the United States. International issues have become vitally important to the forest

resources in Mississippi. We are training our students to be active players in this arena. We have initiated study abroad programs and international internships to facilitate our students in receiving significant worldwide experiences. One student recently completed a joint graduate program with the Universiti Sains Malaysia, and another student will attend the Universidad Austral de Chile this fall while a student from that university will attend the CFR. Currently, the CFR has students enrolled from 10 foreign countries.

Faculty members also are fine-tuning their international skills. While on sabbatical leave, faculty members have been participating in international activities. These activities add depth to our college and are exceptional experiences for them, as well. Dr. Eric Dibble returned in January from a six-month sabbatical in Brazil where he taught and conducted research at the Fundacas Univerisdade Estadud de Maringa. Dr. Tom Matney will be on sabbatical leave to Sweden where he will work with Haglof Inc.

While we have many international experiences of which to boast, let us not forget the exciting new additions back in Mississippi. The Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management was formally opened in January by Gov. Haley Barbour, MSU President Charles Lee and other state and university officials.

Additionally, the faculty, staff and students continue to excel, even during the hardships of a difficult economy. Throughout the newsletter you will read about the outstanding achievements of our students and



Bob Karr

examples of our faculty's excellence in research.

I am very proud of the faculty, staff and alumni of the College of Forestry Resources. I am also extremely pleased with our students and I want you to be also—they are our future.

Sincerely,

DEAN'S
COMMENTS

Jim Sledge named CFR Alumni Fellow

James L. "Jim" Sledge has been named 2003 Alumni Fellow for the College of Forest Resources.

The Alumni Fellows program brings graduates of distinction back to campus to share their professional experiences and provide career guidance for current students and their faculty mentors.

Sledge is a 1961 forestry graduate from Crystal Springs. He is the current

Mississippi State Forester and formerly served as woodlands manager for Mead Corp.'s Stevenson, Ala., paper and saw mills. Sledge is the former president of the National Association of State Foresters.



Joined by his wife, Sledge is congratulated by Bob Karr, interim dean of the College of Forest Resources.

Tisdale named CFR Alumnus of the Year

Jim Tisdale has been named 2004 College of Forest Resources Alumnus of the Year.



Tisdale

This alumni honor recognizes the achievements of outstanding alumni whose personal lives, professional accomplishments and community service best exemplify the

mission of Mississippi State University.

Tisdale recently retired after 41 years of service with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including 18 years as manager of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. He received his undergraduate degree in forestry and his master's degree in wildlife management from Mississippi State University.

Tisdale's accomplishments for the refuge include helping start the Larry Box Environmental Educational Center with the Starkville School District and constructing a new \$2 million Refuge Office and Visitor Center on the banks of Bluff Lake. He also helped bring the endangered red cockaded woodpecker up from 16 colonies to 45 colonies.

Tisdale graduated in 1963.

Slide collection donated to the college

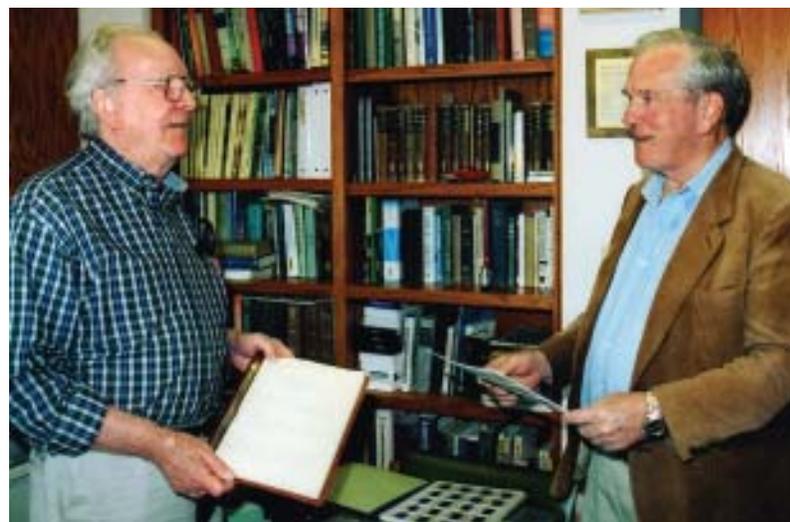
Bob Holland, a retired Georgia Pacific forester with a long history in Mississippi wood procurement, recently donated the Tom Baker slide collection to the college and the center.

Tom Baker was a forest engineer for St. Regis who made dramatic changes in logging and wood supply.

Procurement and the era of forestry covered through the images is an important one, often overshadowed by land management history.

Procurement never has developed an institutional history because of the rapid changes in this sector of forestry.

The Tom Baker slides are being scanned and prepared for archival use.



Bill Stuart (r) accepts the slide collection from Bob Holland.

FORESTRY

- **Dr. Keith Belli** has been named associate dean for the College of Forest Resources.
- **Dr. Scott D. Roberts**, associate professor, returned from sabbatical leave in January. He spent a one-year sabbatical working with the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Experiment Station in Olympia, Wash.
- **Dr. Thomas G. Matney**, professor, has requested sabbatical leave for June-November. Matney has an opportunity to collaborate with Haglof Inc. and will be developing large- and small-scale forest inventory and forest growth modeling software.
- **Dr. Kathryn G. Arano** was hired in January as a postdoctoral research associate. She will be working with Dr. Ian Munn for a one-year period conducting research pertaining to NIPF owners, forest land taxation and other topics.
- **Curtis A. Collins** was hired in January as a research associate I. He will be working with Dr. David Evans on programs in remote sensing, geographic information systems, forest inventory, biometrics, and data distribution applications.
- **Dr. John D. Hodges** was hired December 2003 as an assistant extension professor on a half-time basis for three years. He will lead the department's statewide forestry extension education program in hardwood forest management.
- **Dr. Chuan-Yu Hsu** was hired October 2003, as a postdoctoral research associate. She is working with Dr. Cetin Yuceer through September 2005 in the area of tree reproductive development.
- **Dr. John D. Kushla** was hired December 2003, as an assistant extension/research professor. He is located at the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Verona and specializes in pine management and forest soils.

DEPARTMENT Updates

- **The MSU SAF Student Chapter/ Forestry Club** hosted the 47th annual ASFC Conclave in March at the Equipment Show site south of Starkville on Highway 25. The student organization is very appreciative of the sponsors of this event, which included Stihl, RLH Logging Inc., MSU College of Forest Resources Alumni Association, Georgia-Pacific Inc., the MSU Student Association, and many others. Conclave results will be presented in the fall issue of the alumni newsletter.
- **Dr. Steven H. Bullard** is serving as trustee, Mid-South Section, Forest Products Society, and also serves the society as chair, Furniture and Hardwood Veneer/ Plywood Technical Interest Group.
- **Dr. Andrew W. Ezell**, professor, is the chairman of the Forestry Section of the Weed Science Society of America for 2004-05. He also serves on the board of directors for the Mississippi Ag Industry Council.
- **Dr. Robert A. Daniels**, extension professor, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Society of American Foresters Committee on Forest Policy.

FOREST PRODUCTS

- **Dr. Terry Sellers Jr.** recently retired from the Department of Forest Products with more than 23 years of service.
- **Sandy Stewart**, research scientist, recently retired from the Department of Forest Products with more than 16 years of service.
- **The Department of Forest Products** had its CSREES review in February. Alumnus Catalino Blanche of the Cooperative State

Research Education and Extension Service was the team leader.

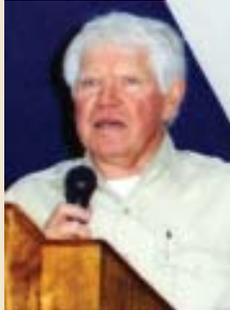
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

- **James E. Miller**, extension/outreach research professor, recently was honored with the 2003 Clarence W. Watson Award at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Banquet in Mobile, Ala. Considered the group's most prestigious honor, the Watson Award is presented jointly by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Directors.
- **Dr. Lou D'Abramo** is the new associate director for the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium.
- **Dr. Jeanne Jones** is the newly elected president of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society.
- **Jared Quillen**, wildlife and fisheries extension associate, has accepted a position in New York. New employees in the extension program of the department include: **Diane Weeks**, administrative secretary; **Tatum Freeman**, extension associate; **Jonathan Peeples**, extension associate; and **Janelle Midtbo**, extension associate. The department also has a relatively new employee: **Laura Andrews** has returned as the assistant to the director of the Berryman Institute and also as the purchasing agent for wildlife and fisheries and the South Farm Aquaculture Unit.
- **Dr. Bruce Leopold** has been elected as Southeastern Section Representative to the Wildlife Society Council
- **Shelley McNamara**, graduate student, received the 2002 MidSouth Aquatic Plant Management Society Scholarship.

Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge Dedication and Celebration



Dr. Bruce Leopold, head of wildlife and fisheries, was one of the featured speakers. Leopold earned a master's degree in forestry in 1979.



Refuge manager Jim Tisdale served as moderator and host for the dedication event. He is a 1961 forestry graduate and received a master's degree in wildlife and fisheries in 1963.



Sarah Palmisano, assistant manager at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge and 2001 wildlife and fisheries graduate, performed the national anthem.

Three alumni participated in the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge Office and Visitor Center Dedication and Centennial Celebration in December. Established in 1940, the refuge includes more than 48,000 acres in three counties, and hosts a variety of habitats including prairie, upland hardwoods, pine hardwood, bottomland hardwood, field, and more than 1,400 acres of water in lakes, rivers and streams.

Three alumni pay tribute to former professor

David Hall, Ramon Callahan and Jim Tisdale honored former professor Denzel Ferguson at the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in December. The three alumni were members of the first graduating class in wildlife management in 1963.

Ferguson was a professor in the Biology Department when he, in essence, started the wildlife management degree program at Mississippi State in 1961. The program began as a master's degree program with Ferguson as the primary motivator and major professor. Dr. Dale Arner was hired in 1962 as the first head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Ferguson eventually left MSU and accepted a position at Oregon State University. He died in 1999 and left a request that a portion of his ashes be spread at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. The three alumni honored their former professors' desires and spread a portion of his ashes on Bluff Lake.

All three members of the first wildlife and fisheries graduating class have had successful careers and recently embarked on a new career—retirement. Hall worked 36 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a federal game warden, Callahan worked 30-plus years as a wildlife biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Jim Tisdale worked 41 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before retiring as refuge manager at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.



David Hall, Ramon Callahan and Jim Tisdale pay tribute to Denzel Ferguson at the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge.

DEVELOPMENT

u p d a t e

Celebrating 50 years of education Setting the pace for the future

In 1954, the Mississippi Legislature authorized a School of Forestry with a curriculum leading to a professional degree at then-Mississippi State College. The program began with six faculty members and 48 students and

awarded its first two diplomas in 1955. Since its inception, some 3,109 students have graduated from what is now known as the College of Forest Resources with bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. This year we

will be looking back over the past 50 years as, at the same time, we look forward to future years. Please join us in celebrating the College of Forest Resources' 50th anniversary.

Montgomery named coordinator for CFR/CVM

Melissa E. Montgomery assumed the position of advancement coordinator for the colleges of Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine in January. Montgomery has been employed by the colleges in the office of development since November 2000.

A Starkville native and MSU graduate, Montgomery completed her bachelor's degree in business administration in 2000. While a student from 1997 to 2000, she worked in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department. Following graduation, Montgomery joined the People's Bank & Trust Co. in Tupelo as a credit underwriter.

After returning to Starkville, she joined MSU as a staff member. She then completed a master's degree in instructional technology in 2003.

In this new position, Montgomery will be responsible for assisting the director of development and the deans of the colleges of Forest Resources and Veterinary Medicine with activities related to the identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of donors and prospects.

"Since joining the development staff three years ago, I have learned the

importance of the MSU Foundation," said Montgomery. "Without private contributions, MSU and the two colleges I work with would not be as equipped to achieve our goals. I am excited to serve the university in this position."

She continued, "MSU has had a positive impact on my life over the years and through this position I hope

to have the same type impact on others."

"Melissa is a tremendous asset to the College of Forest Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the MSU Foundation," said Keith Gaskin, director of development. "She will bring a lot of positive energy to this new position, which is critical as we move forward in our major gift fundraising efforts."

Forest land, a special kind of asset

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

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

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

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

Your inquiry will remain strictly confidential.

DEVELOPMENT

u p d a t e

Education, leadership and research for the future of forest resources

• T I M E L I N E •

- 1954 Legislature created School of Forestry
- 1955 First two professional forestry degrees awarded
- 1955 8,000 acres of land given to the university for a school forest
- 1961 The School of Forestry becomes a separate entity from the College of Agriculture
- 1961 Robert T. Clapp named dean
- 1964 Forest Products Utilization Laboratory authorized by the Legislature
- 1966 School of Forestry moves from Montgomery Hall into Dorman Hall
- 1967 School of Forestry renamed School of Forest Resources
- 1967 Forestry undergraduate education program accredited by Society of American Foresters
- 1967 Department of Wood Science and Technology established and approved to offer master's degrees
- 1968 Department of Wildlife Management established and approved to offer master's degrees
- 1968 Department of Forestry authorized to offer master's degrees
- 1969 Department of Wildlife Management renamed to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- 1970 Fishery management undergraduate curriculum was established
- 1974 R. Rodney Foil named dean
- 1975 Department of Wood Science and Technology approved to offer bachelor's degrees
- 1978 J. Charles Lee named dean
- 1978 Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit was established
- 1978 School forest was named the John W. Starr Memorial Forest after the first forest manager
- 1979 IHL approved the Ph.D. program in forest resources



- 1979 Graduate program in wildlife ecology accredited by the Southeast section of the Wildlife Society
- 1980 First students enrolled in doctoral program
- 1980 Wildlife and Fisheries' research and educational facility created
- 1983 Forest products laboratory renamed R.T. Clapp Forest Products Utilization Laboratory
- 1983 Warren S. Thompson named dean
- 1987 The Legislature created the Furniture Research Unit
- 1989 Department of Wood Science and Technology renamed Department of Forest Products
- 1993 Departments of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and the office of the dean move from Dorman Hall into new facility
- 1994 The Legislature combined the research programs of forest products, forestry, and wildlife and fisheries into a newly created Forest and Wildlife Research Center
- 1994 Bob L. Karr named interim dean
- 1995 John Gunter named dean
- 1996 New facility named Thompson Hall after Dean Emeritus Warren S. Thompson
- 1996 School of Forest Resources renamed College of Forest Resources
- 1997 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries approved to offer bachelor's degrees
- 1999 Bob L. Karr named interim dean
- 2001 G. Sam Foster named dean
- 2001 The Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management created
- 2003 Bob L. Karr named interim dean
- 2003 Berryman Institute East created
- 2004 The Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management is dedicated by Gov. Haley Barbour



Research to ensure long life for new houses

Ensuring that newly constructed homes have a chance to survive to a ripe old age is the goal of a recently established collaboration at Mississippi State.

A joint endeavor among several campus units, the university's new effort in Southern climatic housing research is providing an organized approach to developing, testing and transferring new housing technologies to prevent the premature failure of residential structures.

Funded by an initial \$126,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service, the program is part of that agency's Coalition for Advanced Housing and Forest Products Research Laboratory. It includes MSU faculty members in forest products, civil engineering, landscape architecture, and architecture.

The Forest Service is an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, whose advanced housing coalition brings together higher education institutions to focus on residential wood product and systems research in specific climates. In addition to Mississippi State and Iowa State universities, member schools include the universities of Arizona, Minnesota and North Dakota.

"Approximately 70,000 new houses are built each year in the South," said project coordinator Terry Amburgey. "The team will conduct research to determine designs, construction practices and building products best suited for the Southern climate."

The effort is critical to a region in which almost 50 percent of new houses are at risk because of high heat, humidity and Formosan subterranean termites, added Amburgey, a professor in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Structures often suffer because "housing designs well suited for one climate are transferred to other climatic regions without making

necessary modifications," he explained. "Also, emphasis on energy efficiency has resulted in housing designs that trap moisture and cause deterioration of housing systems."

With initial funding, the research team will design a research and demonstration test house at Mississippi State to serve as a model for evaluating building designs, construction techniques and air-handling systems for use in the South.

"The test house will be dynamic, rather than static, and will be altered as the team generates new data and begins additional research," said Jane B. Greenwood, associate dean of the College of Architecture. "We currently are working on the design phase of the project. Once completed, the test house will serve as a teaching facility for our students and as a demonstration site for builders."

In addition to conducting research, the housing center will serve as a technology transfer hub to educate architects, builders, building officials, building material suppliers, repair and remodeling contractors, and others about creating houses that will be durable in the South, Greenwood added.

Determining the durability of building materials exposed to the voracious Formosan subterranean termite will be another component of field-testing efforts. An exotic species now infesting 11 states, the yellowish-brown insect—which grows to a half-inch in size—is one of the most destructive termite species in the world. In the United States alone, it has caused tremendous property damage, with a single colony capable of eating approximately 1,000 pounds of wood per year.

Greenwood said College of Architecture researchers will design structures to be placed over termite colony locations at university-developed test sites in South Mississippi. Their campus colleagues in the Forest Products Department then will test both treated and untreated building components to determine how materials respond to the invasive termite.

"We're currently in the first year of funding," Amburgey said. "We'll seek additional funding for projects that strive to make housing durable, energy efficient, disaster resistant, environmentally friendly, and affordable."

Research helps analyze, minimize

A recently completed multi-state study at Mississippi State will help forest managers better predict fire risks and patterns in the South.

The analysis by the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center covered more than 100 million acres in the Southeast. The finished project is expected to provide a powerful planning instrument in the arsenal of fire-fighting tools for forest managers.

"The study area includes young pine and mixed pine and hardwood

under 10 years old, which have the highest potential for wildfires," said project investigator Ian Munn.

The professor of forestry said the 2002 fire season alone caused more than seven million acres to be lost in flames nationwide. While most fires occur in the West, the South also is at high risk for potentially destructive fires, he added.

To analyze the area, the MSU researchers developed a geographic information system with both forest

Northern bobwhite initiative launched

An agreement signed in August 2003 is establishing a major regional bobwhite quail conservation initiative to be directed by Mississippi State with oversight by the USDA's Wildlife Habitat Management Institute.

The agreement enables wildlife researchers at the university to coordinate conservation efforts with more than 20 state, federal and other conservation partners.

"Hunting northern bobwhite in Mississippi and other Southeastern states is both a socially and economically significant sport that is steeped in tradition," said MSU avian ecologist Wes Burger. "The sport, however, is threatened by declining populations of the game bird."

A Forest and Wildlife Research Center professor, Burger said the new initiative seeks to develop quantitative, habitat-oriented restoration of bobwhite quail populations.

Support for the program originated with last year's Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, in which Congress included a stipulation that conservation programs seek improvement of northern bobwhite quail habitat on private working lands.

Burger said bobwhite populations in the Southeast have declined over the past three decades at an annual rate of nearly 4 percent. To reverse that trend and attempt to restore bird populations to 1980 levels, national habitat and populations goals will be stepped down to 22 bird conservation regions which comprise the bobwhite's range.

"Individual states will have the responsibility for implementing the habitat and populations goals within their boundaries," Burger said.

Burger said the initiative "is the first landscape-scale habitat restoration and population recovery plan for northern bobwhites in the United States."

To meet the goal, the initiative will depend on land management actions by agricultural producers and non-industrial, private forest landowners. The major limiting factor on bobwhite populations "is the insufficient nesting and brood-rearing habitat over most of the bird's range," Burger said.

Dr. Bruce D. Leopold, wildlife and fisheries department head, said Mississippi State's selection to coordinate the project recognizes the university's longstanding



Commemorating the bobwhite partnership were (l-r) Bruce Knight of the Natural Resources Conservation Center, Corky Pugh of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Dave Howell of Quail Unlimited, and Vance Watson.

investigations into quail ecology and wildlife values of federal farm conservation programs.

"I look forward to five years working with MSU, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Quail Unlimited to help preserve and enhance bobwhite and wildlife habitat in Mississippi and the other Southeastern states," said Bruce I. Knight of Washington, D.C., chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ize forest fire risks

inventory analysis data collected by the USDA Forest Service and U.S. census data that provided demographic characteristics of the region.

"The geographic information system helps organize and analyze the complex spatial relationships among multiple factors of importance," said associate professor David Evans, project co-investigator.

Their conclusion: highest-risk areas in the South are public forests, urban-

forest interface locations and young pine and mixed stands, each with potentially serious hazard and damage consequences in the event of major fires.

To analyze the data, the MSU scientists classified forest fires into three categories: natural fires, accidental and/or arson fires, and person-controlled fires or prescribed fires.

Munn said person-caused forest fires—whether prescribed or accidental/

arson—represent "more than two-thirds of all forest fires." By combining the forest service and census data into GIS, the university team developed an equation to predict fire probability.

Added Munn: "Using readily available data, we were able to identify where efforts are most needed to limit the impact of wildfires."

Untangling pine forest provides habitat

Scientists in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center have found a new way to replicate certain features of pre-colonial forests and untangle the pine forests of today. Their goal: to benefit both 21st century forests and the wildlife species inhabiting them.

"Fire was a natural and essential process in Southern pine forests used by Native Americans for land management," said wildlife biologist Steve Demarais, a professor in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department. "These fires burned underbrush and promoted growth of vegetation beneficial to wildlife."

Today, however, many Southeastern pine forests are a tangled mess as a result of fire exclusion. Demarais said the thick, low-quality hardwood brush and trees that flourish beneath the pine canopy make wildlife habitat scarce.

In 1998, MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center joined with BASF Corp. to test the effects of a combined vegetation management regime known as Quality Vegetation Management in a Noxubee County site. The test site was researched by MSU graduate student Scott Edwards of Meridian.

"The key to re-establishing pine wildlife habitat quality is to 're-capture' the pine forest from the controlling influence of low-quality hardwood underbrush such as hickory and

sweetgum," Demarais explained. "Our initial study showed that QVM accomplishes this goal."

With the competition eliminated, the soil nourishes high-quality broad-leaved plants and grasses—native vegetation that provides beneficial habitat for wildlife species.

"We identified 99 plant species in QVM-treated forests, compared to 38 in untreated areas," said Wes Burger, avian ecologist and wildlife and fisheries professor. "This native vegetation serves as a buffet table for deer, turkey, quail, and certain other wildlife."

In the QVM regime, a selective herbicide is applied in the fall, followed by a prescribed burn during winter. Fertilizer is not required, but will promote faster growth and greater seed production of native plant communities.

"QVM provides cost-effective long-term benefits," Demarais said. "Establishing QVM costs as little as \$115 per acre and the benefits can be maintained with prescribed fire every three to five years. Planting wildlife food plots is nearly three times more expensive without many of the benefits," he added.

Private, non-industrial landowners hold about 135 million acres in the Southeast. Not realizing the need for active management, many have

adopted a "hands-off" forest management approach that promotes low-quality wildlife habitat.

"Landowners can create a mosaic of habitats that game and non-game species use for food and cover by rotating QVM treatments throughout their property," Burger said. "This type of management creates diversity that benefits all wildlife."

As a result of the MSU research, agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture included components of QVM for cost-sharing as part of the federal 2002 Farm Bill. Landowners with conservation reserve program pine plantations may benefit from these financial programs. Additionally, the Mississippi Forestry Commission offers financial assistance to establish QVM.

A new study comparing the cost-effectiveness of QVM on mid-rotation pine production and wildlife habitat quality is being funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of MSU's Wildlife and Fisheries Economic Enterprises federal initiative. Research and demonstration sites have been established in northern and southern parts of the state by the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, MSU Extension Service, and BASF Corp.

Study analyzes impact of marine resources

A new Mississippi State study confirms that commercial sport fishing is both good recreation and very good business—more than \$35 million in good business, to be exact.

A recent research project by the Forest and Wildlife Research Center focused both on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a whole.

Forestry graduate student Emily Loden of Fulton surveyed 630 anglers and marine activity participants during 2001 to gather data on spending patterns and recreational choices.

She found that marine-related economic impacts totaled \$31.8 million in coastal Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties and \$35.9 million statewide. Additionally, coastal marine

resources supported 685 statewide full- and part-time jobs.

Funded by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, the study was designed to help policymakers and the public realize the economic value on areas of low-impact natural resource-based recreation activities, said Steve Grado, an associate professor of forestry.

Technology to provide market for landowners

A new demonstration plant unveiled in December 2003 at Mississippi State has the potential to stimulate alternative, profitable markets for small-diameter trees thinned from pine plantations.

Through a partnership with TimTek Australia Ltd., scientists at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center will demonstrate technologies they hope will ultimately produce commercially viable engineered wood products from three- to eight-inch diameter Southern yellow pines.

Following an international search, company officials earlier selected Mississippi State as a partner because of the university's long-established and widely recognized composite wood product research program in the Department of Forest Products.

Developed in Australia by the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization, the TimTek process forms high-strength, engineered lumber using small-diameter trees that are crushed into strands. Coated with an exterior-type adhesive and dried, the strands then are formed to desired shapes in a specialized steam-injection hot press.

Recently completed with \$1 million funding from the state Land, Water and Timber Resources Board, the plant is located on the western edge of

campus, near the intersection of Blackjack Road and Locksley Way.

During opening ceremonies, TimTek representatives and MSU President Charles Lee joined Lester Spell, state commissioner of agriculture and commerce, in emphasizing the significance of the collaboration to the state's economy.

"This plant and the technology being developed here once again demonstrate Mississippi State's desire to help stimulate competitive markets for Mississippi landowners and the state's forest industry and to help create new value-added products for Mississippi manufacturers," Lee said.

Spell, observing that Mississippi has more than 18 million acres of forest land, said the partnership "will be good for our state, especially for private landowners who hold about 70 percent of the state's forest lands and are seeking new revenues for their small-diameter trees." A member of the Land, Water and Timber Resources Board, he praised TimTek for exemplifying the kind of innovative project the board supports.

Company director Walter Jarck said TimTek's product "is a unique, long-fiber structural engineered lumber with high-strength properties of select-grade

sawn timber. It can be produced in lengths and cross sections greater than can be achieved from the largest logs available."

Since the process can be incorporated into existing plants, owners of wood-processing operations have the potential to realize immediate economic benefits, Jarck added.



Lester Spell, Charles Lee and Walter Jarck

Further research will both determine the strength values of the product and test the product to help gain building code acceptance. Initial examinations in MSU's forest products department indicate that the engineered lumber has the potential to compete favorably with beams and timbers used in residential and commercial construction.

"We knew that marine-related recreational and tourism expenditures contributed to both the state and local economy," Grado said. "Little information was available, however, on the actual economic impacts of marine resources of the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

The study recommended that the amount and quality of public outdoor

recreation sites and events on the Mississippi Gulf Coast be increased and improved to promote the use and conservation of marine resources.

"Our research clearly indicates that fishing and related activities on the Gulf Coast benefit the three coastal counties and Mississippi," said Jeanne Jones, an associate professor of wildlife and fisheries.

To better assess overall marine angling expenditures in Mississippi, the researchers called for additional study of expenditures by private pier operators and private-boat marine anglers.

EVENTS

Alumni

76 graduate named National Park Service chief, Division of Fire and Aviation

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella recently announced the selection of Edy Williams-Rhodes as the chief of the Division of Fire and Aviation, located in Washington, D.C. Williams-Rhodes will assume her new responsibilities June 15.

“Edy brings with her a wealth of experience in the natural resources field, all of which have been in support of fire management activities,” Mainella said. “She is one of only four area commanders in the interagency fire arena and is highly respected by her peers across agency boundaries. We are fortunate to have Edy join our team, and I look forward to working with her.”

As the division chief, located within the office of the associate director for visitor and resource protection, Williams-Rhodes will be responsible for overall program formulation, direction and coordination of the National Park Service wildland fire, structural fire and aviation management programs.

“It is an absolute honor and privilege to be selected as the next chief of fire and aviation for the National Park Service,” said Williams-Rhodes. “I have devoted most of my career to wildland fire management activities which has given me a

profound sense of purpose and pride. I look forward to working with the employees of the NPS, as well as our interagency partners on the resource and public protection challenges and opportunities that we share.”

Since February 2000, Williams-Rhodes has served as regional director for aviation and fire management for the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service in Albuquerque, N.M. Prior to that, she was stationed in Washington, D.C., at the Forest Service national headquarters. While there, 1996-2000, Williams-Rhodes served in the aviation and fire management staff unit in three positions, including assistant director for planning, branch

chief for cooperative fire, and branch chief for planning, analysis and information resource management. Prior to her experience in Washington, she worked in various staff and line officer positions in the Southern Region of the Forest Service.

Williams-Rhodes has actively served in incident management since 1979. She holds two bachelor's degrees from Mississippi State: one in forest management and another in education.

Edy is the daughter of Dan and Elsie Williams of Prentiss. Dan is a 1950 MSU graduate and one of the first 1955 forestry graduates.

National Park Service News Release



Doug Lamb, a 1974 forestry graduate, has embarked on a new enterprise, Sis & D's Handmade Spoons. Based in Clarksdale, the husband/wife team crafts wooden spoons, spatulas, forks, and other kitchen utensils.

Become a member of the MSU College of Forest Resources Alumni Society

The CFR Alumni Society is focused on supporting the College of Forest Resources. Although we work cooperatively with the MSU Alumni Association, we are an entirely separate organization. To be a full-fledged member of the CFR Alumni Society, you must pay yearly dues of \$25. These are not the same dues that you pay to the MSU Alumni Association. The MSU Alumni Association does not collect dues for the CFR Alumni Society. Membership is on an annual basis. If you would like to support the CFR Alumni Society and its activities, please tear off this application and return it with a check or money order for \$25 to:

MSU College of Forest Resources Alumni Society

Box 9681

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Name _____ Year Graduated _____ Department _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Student **Services**



2003 GRADUATES

A special reception and ceremony honoring fall 2003 graduates and their families was held in December. The dean presented the students with a certificate of completion as they marched in, and a class photo was taken for the students.

RESEARCH PRESENTATION RECEIVES MAJOR RECOGNITION

A wildlife study of an endangered waterfowl species in her native Puerto Rico is earning a Mississippi State graduate student recognition from an international organization.

Marisel Lopez-Flores, a master's degree student in wildlife and fisheries under the direction of Francisco J. Vilella, is being honored by the Neotropical Ornithological Congress for the best student research presentation at the organization's 2003 assembly. Her report was among 100 scientific studies by students from nearly 30 countries presented at this year's meeting in Puyehue, Chile.

Titled "White-cheeked Pintail Hen and Brood Survival in Wetlands of Eastern Puerto Rico," Lopez's study described her investigations at the Humacao Nature Reserve. Her work was supported by a Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration grant through the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

The duck is common throughout the West Indies and Central and South America. Found primarily in mangrove swamps, salt or brackish lagoons and tidal creeks and estuaries, it currently is at risk due to habitat loss and illegal hunting, among other factors.

Founded in 1987, the Neotropical Ornithological Congress includes members from around the world. In addition to meeting every four years, the organization publishes an annual journal of scholarly articles.

Prior to enrolling at MSU, Lopez received a bachelor's degree in wildlife management at the University of Puerto Rico.

CAREER CENTER NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS

The MSU Career Center and the College of Forest Resources have teamed up to make job search services easier for students, alumni and employers. With one-stop shopping, the Career Center offers opportunities to MSU alumni who are seeking employment and those who are seeking new hires.

The Career Center works closely with the CFR in monitoring job listings and seeking opportunities for graduates. Alumni who are back in the job search can establish a free account with the Career Center. This account allows them to upload their resume, apply for jobs online and participate in on-campus interviewing.

Alumni who are now employers seeking to hire MSU students and graduates can utilize the Career Center's Employer Services, which are also free of charge. Employer registration allows companies to post jobs on the Career Center Web site, schedule on-campus interviews, as well as register for events such as Career Day. Whether employers are looking for co-op students, interns or full-time employees, the Career Center offers it all.

If you are interested in utilizing the services of The Career Center, contact Jodi Roberts at 662-325-3344 or by e-mail at jroberts@career.msstate.edu.

STUDENT FORESTRY GROUP AGAIN TOPS AMONG PEERS

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

The 50-member university chapter recently placed first in the 2003 SAF Student Chapter Web site competition and now is ranked third overall in the outstanding student chapter rankings.

The group has finished atop the overall chapter rankings for the past five years, capturing first place in 1996-97 and 2000-01, and second place in 1998-99 and 2001-02.

Because the chapter entered that category of the annual competition for the first time this year, this year's Web site honor is additionally noteworthy. Designed and maintained by student members, <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/studentorgs/saf/index.htm> was judged on design and content, among other criteria.

The 2002-03 officers included President Shane Harrington of Douglasville, Ga., Vice President Britt A. Hubbard of New Albany, and Treasurer Bryan M. McElroy of Carrollton, Ala. Associate professor of forestry Donald L. Grebner is chapter adviser.

Founded in 1900, SAF is the world's largest professional organization for foresters. Its 18,000 active members are engaged in a variety of programs to improve the health, productivity and use of the nation's forest lands.

The 2003 awards presentation was held as part of the organization's national convention in Buffalo, N.Y. Grebner also was recognized during the ceremony for his contribution to the student organization.



Updates

Ramon Callahan (forestry 1961, wildlife and fisheries 1963) is working as a consulting forester/biologist for Callahan Timber and Wildlife Services. Ramon has three children and nine grandchildren. He and wife Mary Katherine live in Terry.

James L. "Jim" Sledge (forestry 1961) is the Mississippi State Forester and head of the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He is also the CFR 2003 Alumni Fellow.

Jim Tisdale (forestry 1961, wildlife and fisheries 1963) recently retired as manager of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. He is the 2004 CFR Alumnus of the Year.

David Hall (forestry 1961, wildlife and fisheries 1963) worked 36 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a federal game warden and recently retired. He lives in Slidell, La.

Hurston O. Nicholas (forestry 1964) retired in 1991 as training coordinator for fire and aviation, Region 8 for the U.S. Forest Service. Nicholas has 30-plus years with the U.S. Forest Service. He and wife Mary Ann live in Acworth, Ga., and have three children and four grandchildren.

William L. Kearney (forestry 1965) and wife Marilyn are living in Cleveland, Tenn. He is a forester with the USDA Forest Service. He has two grandchildren: Trip, 7, and Abbey, 5.

Joe Hensley (forestry 1972) is a timber cruiser living in Pachuta. He has one son, Todd, 30, and one granddaughter Ashtyn, 6.

Doug Lamb (forestry 1974) is the owner of Sis & D's Handmade Spoons. Based in Clarksdale, he crafts wooden spoons, spatulas, forks, and other kitchen utensils.

Edy Williams-Rhodes (forestry 1976) is the chief, Division of Fire and Aviation for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.

I. Winston Savelle, Jr. (forestry 1977 and 1983) is living in Alpharetta, Ga.

Sally Johnson Mangum (forestry 1983) is living in Columbus.

Jeff Sullivan (forestry 1983) is a senior consultant with PBS&J in Southwest Georgia. He is living in Evergreen, Ala.

Jeff Keeton (forestry 1991) is one of the forestry tech program teachers at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville. Jeff received the Mississippi Society of American Foresters Outstanding Young Forester Award for 2002.

Anissa Roark Young (forest products 1996) is working for Hinds Community College as a workforce training specialist—Health and Safety. She and husband Chris are living in Clinton.

Will Cox (forest products 1997) is an account executive with AmeriSafe in Madison.

Seth Swafford (wildlife and fisheries 1998) works for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services as a wildlife biologist. He lives in Stoneville.

Shane D. Jackson (wildlife and fisheries 1998) is living in Decatur, Ala. He is working as a contract specialist

for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. He received a master's degree in management from the University of Alabama in May 2003.

Kendrick Joseph Ladner (wildlife and fisheries 2000) is living in Gonzales, La., and working for Vulcan Chemicals.

Ben Bingham (forestry 2001) is working as the Monroe County forester for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. He and wife Suzanne live in Nettleton.

Freddie Davis (forestry 2001) is working for International Paper as a forester in Lumberton, N.C.

Sarah Palmisano (wildlife and fisheries 2001) is an assistant manager at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Crystal River, Fla.

Mark Batson (forestry 2002) works for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil conservation technician. He lives in Starkville.

Neil Simpson (forestry 2002) is an account executive with AmeriSafe in Clinton.

Courtney White (forestry 2003) is a timber buyer for Shuqualak Lumber Co. in Shuqualak.

Carrie Crosby (forestry 2003) is living in Vicksburg.

John and Sandy Rhine (wildlife and fisheries 2003) are proud parents of a little girl, Susan Olivia, born Oct. 4, 2003.

ALUMNI
Updates

We want your news!

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

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

Name _____ Spouse _____

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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New publications available via the Web



Winter-flooded rice fields provide waterfowl habitat and agricultural values

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

More than three million acres of rice are grown annually in the United States, primarily in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (the Delta). However, only about 10 percent of the rice acreage in the Delta is currently managed to provide winter wetlands for waterfowl. Extraordinary potential exists on rice lands for increasing the availability of wetland habitat for waterfowl and other water birds.

Wetland reserve program

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

The amount of Delta bottomland hardwood forests has decreased approximately 50 percent since the Europeans began settling in the area over a century ago. Reforestation in these farmed wetlands provides economic help through timber production and hunting and fishing revenues.

Composting may offer a solution to the costly wood waste handling problem

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

Furniture manufacturing, Mississippi's great and growing industry, generates huge amounts of wood waste. Wood waste disposal is difficult and expensive. Composting appears to offer a viable option that could result in a value-added product.

FORVAL for Windows

www.cfr.msstate.edu/fwrc/forval1.pdf

FORVAL (FORest VALuation) for Windows is a computer program for cash flow analysis of forestry investments. FORVAL was written in Visual Basic and is user-friendly and includes a Windows Help file.

Change in wood use patterns by the furniture industry

www.cfr.msstate.edu/forestp/furn.pdf

This study was conducted to provide a comprehensive assessment of material use by the furniture industry and to track the changes in material use since 1993.

Furniture research: Key to the future of the industry in Mississippi

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

In 1987, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the establishment of a Furniture Research Unit at the Mississippi Forest Products Laboratory. Its purpose was to provide technical assistance to the Mississippi furniture industry. Evaluation of the program after five years indicates that it has been a wise investment by the State of Mississippi.