

Fall 2001

the forester's
LOG

The magazine of the
Warnell School of Forest Resources
University of Georgia

Wood Quality
BEGINS IN THE WOODS

Responding to your needs

BY DEAN ARNETT C. MACE, JR.

We recently completed the School's 2000-2001 Annual Report to President Adams, and I'd like to share a few of the highlights with you that chart our progress in teaching, research and service.

Major accomplishments in instruction include leadership in the creation of a new Water Resources Certificate Program open to students across campus, introduction of a study abroad program in forest resources, initiation of the 2+3 Program, the Student Ambassador Program and development of the School's second distance learning course. Graduate enrollment is at an all-time high at 132 students.

Extramural funding for research increased for the third consecutive year, reaching a record level of \$3.4 million for combined federal, state and private grants in FY 2001. There were 121 contracts and grants obtained or renewed in FY 2000, an increase of more than 18 percent over 1999. Productivity has never been higher. Our faculty published 82 refereed articles in 2000, maintaining the record rate set in 1999.

Ten research proposals from WSFR faculty were funded this year through the Traditional Industries Program in Pulp and Paper (TIP3), totaling \$673,000. Research support from the forest industry remains strong. For example, two WSFR industry-university partnerships, the Wood Quality Consortium and the Consortium for Accelerated Pine Productivity Studies expanded their



photo by Chuck Moore

company memberships this year. The Wood Quality research program, featured in the cover story of this issue, successfully competed for funds totaling more than \$600,000 in the Agenda 2020, a joint industry-government (DOE) grants program.

One faculty member received two National Institutes of Health grants totaling more than \$450,000 to research transgenic fish that may be useful in evaluating health risks and the presence of environmental contaminants. His achievements reflect our recent success in recruiting faculty with a wide range of expertise needed to address current and future forest resources issues.

We're serving more people than ever through our service and outreach programs. Service faculty held 25 continuing education conferences

across the state, 36 in-service training meetings for forest resource professionals, 91 statewide multi-district meetings, 95 local educational meetings, 31 county extension landowner meetings and published 67 new service publications. The recently completed Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center near Savannah will help us educate thousands of Georgia students and the public about the importance of the state's forest resources.

Efforts to provide forest resources information via the Internet have been very successful. Nearly 300 service publications have now been converted so that users can access them through a keyword search. And from April 2000 to April 2001, our service faculty handled more than 450,000 inquiries for information via the Internet.

While all vital signs indicate that the School is a center of excellence, we continue to evaluate and plan ahead to ensure that our programs are timely and pertinent. We face many economic and quality issues in the state -- changing land ownership, taxation, forest certification for private landowners, international competition as well as water and environmental quality concerns. Be assured that we will continue to provide the very best in forest and natural resources instruction, research and service programming.

the forester's
Log

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The pressure to push
wood to market is having
profound effects on
quality.

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WOOD QUALITY

Begins in the Woods

By Helen Fosgate

The demand has never been greater for Southern yellow pine, a primary wood used in the construction of homes, decks and many engineered wood products like plywood. And while forest products companies have more incentive than ever to increase production and harvest earlier, the pressure to push wood to market is having profound effects, both in the industry and marketplace.

“The trend toward fast-growing plantations and shorter rotations means a higher ratio of juvenile wood on the market,” says Dick Daniels, professor of quantitative forest management in the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forest Resources. “Juvenile wood may be fine for some paper products, but it’s not best for building products where strength is important.”

Daniels and Alex Clark, a wood scientist with the USDA Forest Service co-direct UGA’s Wood Quality Consortium, a research cooperative supported by nine forest products companies. Consortium researchers are conducting studies to determine the strength characteristics of wood, and more importantly, the most appropriate uses for wood of varying ages.

“Even in engineered wood products, a degree of natural strength and stiffness has to be there or glue must be substituted, and that’s expensive,” says Clark, who oversees the wood testing part of the research in his lab at the Southern Research Station Forest Sci-



Dick Daniels (left) and Alex Clark are co-directors of UGA’s Wood Quality Consortium.

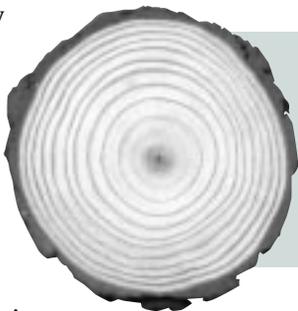
ences Lab on campus. “The main thing is to be sure the trees we’re growing now can provide what the consumer needs in 20 years. We don’t want to push trees so much in the growing phase that we experi-

ence strength failures in the wood down the road.”

Daniels says while the industry isn’t yet producing

custom-grown pines for specific uses, it almost certainly will in the future. In the meantime, industry leaders are well aware of their challenge: Produce copious amounts of high-quality wood – and fast.

No matter how you slice it, wood quality begins in the woods and fields. Site preparation, cultivation practices like fertilization and weed control, growth rate and seedling genetics all affect the quality and strength of finished wood products. But it’s not that



Measures of Pine Wood Quality

- * Density (weight per volume)
- * Stiffness (resistance to deflection or bending)
- * Strength (power to resist a force or support a load)
- * Toughness (energy required to cause a rapid complete failure)
- * Dimensional stability (resistance against shrinkage, warping)



photos by Chuck Moore

Lab tech Tim Fletcher (above) uses the x-ray densitometer to determine the specific gravity of a pine core sample. Researchers use the static bending machine (right) to test pine samples for stiffness and elasticity.

simple. Wood quality properties vary widely, not only between trees of different age groups, but within stands, regions and even individual trees.

“Our job initially, is to characterize how the properties of wood and lumber relate back to cultivation practices,” said Clark.

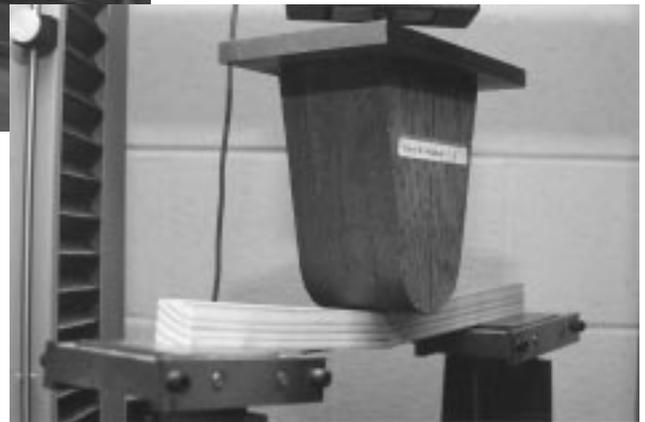
Specialized machines in the lab help researchers measure the growth rate and density of early and latewood within the annual rings as well as wood strength, stiffness, toughness and dimensional stability. Latewood is the darker portion of the annual ring in Southern pine. Added in late summer, latewood is denser, thicker and stronger than the lighter-colored rings pines put on

early in the season, and it adds strength and stiffness to wood. Researchers relate the proportion of latewood in the annual ring, wood density, fiber length, wall thickness with wood properties of trees grown under different cultural conditions.

“We’re developing predictive models for quality just as we have for quantity,” says Daniels. “For example, if we know the growing conditions including location, age, fertilization and weed control regimes, we should be able to predict wood quality characteristics such as density, moisture content, stiffness, strength and dimensional stability.”

Daniels said test plantations are available to sample, thanks to the work of researchers in cooperatives across the South, including the WSFR’s own Plantation Management Research Cooperative and the Consortium for Advanced Pine Plantation Productivity (CAPPS). PMRC researchers have been conducting intensive pine production studies in Georgia and surrounding states for 25 years. Barry Shiver and Bruce Borders have shown it’s possible to double, even triple fiber yields, though intensive methods produce more juvenile wood.

In addition to data from WSFR’s



own PMRC and CAPPS cooperatives, Daniels and Clark are also able to draw on the work of researchers at Auburn, the University of Florida, Virginia Tech and North Carolina State, who are partners in the Wood Quality Consortium.

“Over the last decade, we’ve made tremendous gains at improving yields,” said Daniels. “The next step in our quest for improved production will focus on quality. Initially, we’ll look only at pines, but as our work progresses, we hope to include hardwoods as well.” ▲

FACULTY NEWS



John Carroll was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of wildlife ecology in April 2001.

Mike Conroy, adjunct professor of wildlife (Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit), was recently promoted to GS-15 in the US Geological Survey. In April, he organized a regional workshop, "Landscape Changes in the Southern Piedmont: the Role of Spatial Scales and Uncertainty in Decision-Making," held at Amicalola Falls, Ga. He organized another workshop in June on adaptive harvest management for American black ducks, held in Quebec City, Canada. Conroy also completed a book, "Analysis and Management of Animal Populations," co-authored by **B.K. Williams** and **J.D. Nichols**, to be published in Spring 2002 by Academic Press.

Robert Cooper, associate professor of wildlife ecology and biometrics, and a large group of WSFR students presented papers and posters at the American Ornithologists' Union Conference in Seattle, Washington in August. Cooper's paper entitled, "*Nest site selection studies and nest predators: What are we measuring and why?*" was coauthored by Jennifer Dececco (WSFR), Stephen J. Mullin (Eastern Illinois Univ.) and R. Randy Wilson (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Sarah Covert and **Jeff Dean**, associate professors of forest biotechnology, are participants in a new 3-year \$1.8 million multi-institutional grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, entitled "Allele Discovery for Genes Controlling Economic

Traits in Loblolly Pine." **Lee Pratt** and **Mary Michele Cordonnier-Pratt** (Dept. of Botany) and **Alan Gingle** (Office of the Vice President for Research) are other members of the UGA research team. **David Neale** (U.S. Forest Service and UC Davis) is lead investigator. **John Davis** and



Bob Teskey, professor and interim associate dean for research and service, has been named a UGA

Distinguished Research Professor. The award, which recognizes outstanding research accomplishment, is presented by the UGA Research Foundation.

Teskey developed a number of innovative techniques, many of which are now standard practice in modern plant physiology research. His initial work looked at how environmental stresses such as drought influence tree function. He later expanded his research to study the impacts of pollution, ozone and climate change on trees. In order to study the physiology of large trees in the forest, Teskey developed Branch Chambers, a novel technique to apply treatments to large trees growing in forests. His technique is now used around the world to study tree physiology.

Teskey was one of only 25 U.S. scientists invited to speak at the U.S./Japan Workshop on Global Change in October 2001.

Tim White (Univ. of Florida) are co-principle investigators. **Tim Martin** (Univ. of Florida) is also a collaborator.

Jeff Dean, was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of forest biotechnology in April 2001.



Gary Grossman, professor of fish physiology, was among a 40-member team of scientists who petitioned (and won) to change the name of *Epinephelus*

Itajara, or jewfish, to goliath grouper. The committee, a joint body of the American Fisheries Society and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists rarely changes the common names of fishes, but in this case they've been hearing complaints since the mid-'60s. The committee acted just in time to make the newest reference volume of common names, which is published every 10 years.



Tim Harrington, associate professor of forest ecology, received three grants totaling \$166,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study natural plant

communities associated with longleaf pine. Harrington will quantify the long-term responses of understory vegetation to thinning and herbicide treatments. Other studies are underway to develop methods for restoring native herbaceous species within gaps of mature forests.

Rhett Jackson, assistant professor of hydrology, along with **Dale Greene**,
continued on page 9 ...

Driven OVER, OUT

American Oystercatchers: Driven 'OUT

By Helen Fosgate

New research shows Georgia's undeveloped barrier islands provide essential habitat for vulnerable beach-nesting birds like least terns, Wilson's plovers and the rare American oystercatcher. But scientists fear that more access to the islands by humans may hurt the birds' ability to breed, nest and fledge young successfully.

"Oystercatchers leave areas where there is increased human activity," said Sara Schweitzer, a wildlife ecologist in the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources. "Where beach-driving and boat access are allowed, there's a danger of eggs and chicks being crushed. Pets are also a big threat to nesting birds on these islands."

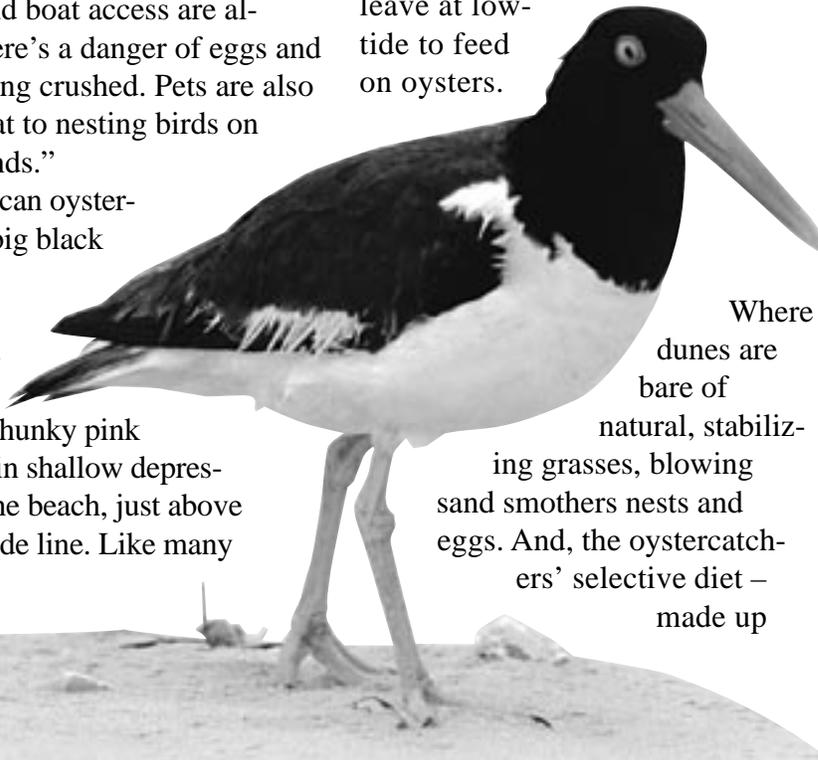
American oystercatchers, big black and white birds with distinctive orange bills and chunky pink legs, nest in shallow depressions on the beach, just above the high-tide line. Like many

shorebirds, they were hunted almost to extinction earlier this century for their long, showy feathers, which adorned women's hats.

Today they face new dangers as people demand access to their last refuges. Boat wakes swamp nests and wash out eggs. Unaware beachcombers trample eggs, which are nearly invisible against the sand. Raccoons, crows and gulls prey on eggs and chicks when the parents leave at low-tide to feed on oysters.



Beach-driving and more boat access to remote islands leave these rare shorebirds few places to live.



Where dunes are bare of natural, stabilizing grasses, blowing sand smothers nests and eggs. And, the oystercatchers' selective diet – made up

primarily of oysters but also small crabs and starfish – make them a target of pollution.

"Oystercatchers have ties to the human food chain," said Schweitzer, "so they're an excellent indicator species of the overall health of the coastal ecosystem. We can condemn oysterbeds for people, but the birds depend on them, even when the oysters are contaminated."

Oystercatchers find some sanctuary on the last undeveloped beaches and sandbars along the Atlantic, including Sapelo, Ossabaw and Cumberland Islands. One flock winters on Little St. Simons and a sandbar at the mouth of the Altamaha River. Twenty to 30 pairs nested here last year from March to early August, with varying success.

In research funded by the

Oystercatchers continued on page 8 ...



Researchers wait long hours in the hot sun and blowing rain for a chance to capture the birds, which they tag in order to learn more about their migratory habits and nesting success.

...continued from page 7

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, graduate student Clay George is working under the direction of Schweitzer and DNR biologist Brad Winn to gather information that can help guide management policies to ensure the birds' survival. But there is much to learn.

A mid-winter survey counted more than 150,000 sea- and shore-birds of 65 different species off Georgia's coast, including 487 American oystercatchers. But numbers are much higher in North Carolina and Virginia, and scientists wonder why. It could just be that Georgia is near the southern end of the oystercatchers' range. Still, while hundreds winter on Georgia's coast, researchers know little about their migratory habits, nesting success or how they're affected by pollution.

"We know oystercatchers prefer sandy beaches, but so do people," said Schweitzer. "So we're monitoring how well they're faring on other sites like sand spits, dredge spoil deposits and oystershell rakes. We don't know whether they pair throughout the season or split up when

their nests are destroyed. Also, we don't know if they return to the same nesting site each year, regardless of whether they were successful the year before. All of this information would help us develop management strategies to improve these sites – and the birds' survival rate."

Schweitzer and colleagues, who include George, Winn and Wildlife Conservation Society veterinarian Terry Norton, who works in St. Catherine's Island Wildlife Survival Center, are capturing oystercatchers to assess their general health, and more importantly, to tag them with colored leg bands.

"We knew how much more we could learn if we marked the birds," said Schweitzer. "It will allow us to follow individuals and pairs from season to season."

Sounds easy enough, but researchers found the birds to be wary - and lightning quick.

"As far as we knew, no one in North America had ever caught wintering oystercatchers," said Schweitzer, "so it took a lot of trial and error."

The scientists tried mist nets, a net gun and rocket nets – without

success. Finally, they hit on cannon nets, which they set up on shore where the birds congregate. They activate the cannon net from a blind in the sand, where someone waits, buried. Others keep watch in a boat offshore for long hours in the hot sun or cold wind, binoculars in hand.

Since December 2000, they've captured 24 birds, including five willets, three marbled godwits and 16 oystercatchers. Once captured, the scientists move quickly to put the birds into dark, vented boxes so they calm down. One by one, the birds are weighed, measured and marked with colored and stainless steel leg bands. Norton takes blood samples to check for accumulations of heavy metals and diseases like avian influenza and the West Nile virus. He also collects fecal samples to test for internal parasites and bacterial pathogens.

"Oystercatchers are charismatic birds that can live up to 15 years in the wild," said Schweitzer. "We hope their survival is just a matter of educating ourselves about their needs and developing guidelines that the public will support and follow." ▲

... Faculty continued from page 6

professor of forest engineering, **Ben Jackson**, professor of timber harvesting, **Larry Morris**, professor of soils, **Daniel Markewitz**, assistant professor of soil site productivity and **Todd Rasmussen**, associate professor of forest hydrology, received a 4-year, \$450,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to study the effects of Best Management Practices on water quality.

Daniel Markewitz, assistant professor of soil site productivity and **Daniel Richter, Jr.** (Duke University), have coauthored a new book, *Understanding Soil Change: Soil Sustainability Over Millennia, Centuries and Decades*. The book details changes in southeastern soils as they were formed by natural processes over millions of years, then altered by 200 years of human use.



Scott Merkle, professor of forest biology, was an invited speaker at the final meeting of the Multi-disciplinary Chestnut Research Group, a European Community research project, held in May in Ascona, Switzerland. Merkle, the only speaker from the U.S., made a presentation on the potential of somatic embryogenesis to aid in the restoration of the American chestnut.



Joe Meyers, adjunct assistant professor of wildlife ecology and scientist in the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, has been named to the editorial board of the new scientific journal, *Southeastern Naturalist*, a regional interdisciplinary journal that will serve as a standard reference resource for

the southeastern U.S. Published and sponsored by the Humboldt Field Research Institute of Steuben, Maine and the Association of Southeastern Biologists, the journal accepts manuscripts in ecology, biology, geology, behavior, biogeography, taxonomy, evolution, anatomy, physiology and related fields.

Karl Miller, professor of wildlife management, was honored for outstanding teaching at UGA Honors Day in spring 2001. In July, Miller received an Award of Appreciation from the Australian Deer Research Foundation for his help in advancing deer management in Australia.

David Newman, professor of forest economics, presented a paper in Porto Seguro, Brazil in July about the importance of competitive forestry markets in Latin America. In September, he made a presentation at the Society of American Foresters convention in Denver about the impact of land use change in the South. He recently signed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to analyze the importance of trees in assessing urban property values.

Newman, along with **Coleman Dangerfield**, professor of forest economics and **Warren Flick**, professor of forest policy received continued funding from TIP3 to research the impact of property taxes on Georgia's competitiveness.

Todd Rasmussen, associate professor of forest hydrology, received the Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Teaching at the School's 70th Annual Spring Awards Banquet in April.



Sara Schweitzer, associate professor of wildlife ecology, was invited to join

New Faculty



Dr. Michael Mengak, extension wildlife specialist
Ph.D. forestry/wildlife,
Clemson University 1987

M.S. forest management,
Clemson University 1982
B.S. fisheries/wildlife, VPI 1979

Michael Wimberly, assistant professor/landscape ecology
Ph.D. forest ecology, Oregon State Univ. 1999



M.S. quantitative resource management, Univ of Washington, 1995
B.A. environmental science, Univ. of Virginia

UGA's International Fellows Program for 2001/2002. She will initiate research and teaching workshops on wildlife population management in Bulgaria and/or Croatia.



Barry Shiver, professor of forest biometrics, was recognized for outstanding teaching at UGA Honors Day in spring 2001.



Graduate Student News



Christyne Scofield, a master's degree candidate in wildlife ecology and management,

was named winner of the 2001 Wildlife and Conservation Law Writing Contest sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) for her paper entitled "*A Survey of Urban Deer Policies in Four Southeastern States.*" She received an all-expense paid trip to the 55th SEAFWA Conference in Louisville, KY in October to present the paper. Scofield wrote the paper last year for her Senior Thesis. She is continuing her work at UGA in wildlife policy.

Allen Sealock, a master's degree candidate in forest management, received a \$21,564 National Network for Environmental Management Studies grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to research the phytoremediation of explosives.

Beth Wright, a master's degree candidate in wildlife ecology, was awarded a \$1,500 grant by the Georgia Ornithological Society to examine the population density

and habitat use of Swainson's warblers at Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge near Macon, Ga. Wright is also developing a volunteer monitoring program for Swainson's warblers along the Ocmulgee River flood plain. Her research is also supported by the WSFR, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Alexandra de Pinho (pronounced Aleshandra), a Ph.D. candidate working with Drs. Larry Morris and Rhett

Jackson, is here as part of a cooperative program between UGA and the Federal University of Vicosa in Brazil. This "sandwich program" supports a year of research abroad for the most talented graduate students. Alexandra, who has already completed two years of her Ph.D. program, will spend this year studying pesticide filtering in

streamline management zones. Back in Brazil, she will use data collected in Georgia as part of her Ph.D. dissertation.

Abigail Vitale, a master's degree student in wildlife management, won second place and \$150 for her oral presentation at the national University Consortium for GIS in Buffalo, NY in June.

Graduate Symposium Winners 2001

Fisheries and Wildlife

First Place

Tom Reinert (\$300)

Second Place (tie)

Kirsten Hazler (\$200)

Second Place (tie)

Dawn Drumtra (\$200)

Third Place

Sandra Cederbaum (\$100)

Forest Management

First Place

Olivier Halleux (\$300)

Second Place

Gail Lash (\$200)

Third Place

Charles Rose (\$100)

Forest Biology, Soils and Hydrology

First Place

Tracy Crocker (\$300)

Second Place

Jianliang Dai (\$200)

Third Place

Xiao-Qing Zeng (\$100)

FACULTY PROFILE: SCOTT MERKLE

by Helen Fosgate

Scott Merkle jumps up, grabbing a cluster of leaves at the end of a branch. His hat tumbles to the ground, but he holds fast to the branch and turns to address the students of Dendrology 3010.

“Okay, now that you’ve all seen my bald spot, who can tell me what distinguishing feature helps us identify this tree species?”

The students laugh, moving in to see Merkle point out the bell shape at the base of the leaf, the “dead giveaway,” according to him that this is a Southern red oak. “That was a bit more challenging than I thought,” he says, flipping his cap back over his bald ‘spot,’ which covers much of his head. “Let’s move on to a real confidence builder...”

A forest biotechnologist in the Warnell School of Forest Resources, Merkle says he knew from the age of about 12 that someday he’d work with trees. “It was my family’s fault, really,” he says with a shrug. “Whenever I complained about people, they encouraged me to be a forest ranger, so I could sit alone in a fire tower all day.”

When he graduated from



photo by Chuck Moore

part of a tree improvement program.

The Merkles lived like vagabonds for the next year and a half between Texas, Oregon and then Georgia, where Merkle applied for a post-doc position in UGA’s School of Forest Resources. Here he found a couple of the very few researchers in the country experimenting with

tissue culture in trees.

“Claud Brown was a real pioneer in this field,” he says. “He and Harry Sommer were the first to tissue culture pines in 1975. They went on to successfully culture sweetgum, black locust and several other species. Their work made a big international splash and generated funds for a post-doc position, for which I was hired in 1984.”

By 1987 Merkle was integral to the fledgling forest biotech program and joined the faculty as an assistant professor. While he continues to work toward improved tissue culture techniques, he expanded his research to include gene transfer. Gene transfer techniques have the potential to produce trees with improved disease and insect resistance -- and even the ability to clean up contaminated soils,

Merkle continued on page 14 ...

William and Mary with a biology degree in 1976, Merkle did go on to major in forestry at Virginia Tech, where he earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in the relatively new field of forest genetics. His main interest was in tissue culture or tree cloning, but when he completed his Ph.D. in 1982, he found only a handful of researchers in the country working in this area. Worse yet, the forest industry was mired in a deep economic depression.

Fortunately, he says his wife, Roberta, whom he’d met at William and Mary and married in 1980, got a job in Dallas after graduation working with cell-surface glycoproteins. It took four months, but Merkle found a position as a post-doc at Oregon State University in Corvallis. There he analyzed population genetics on Douglas-fir trees as

UGA Water Resources Certificate Program Approved

The Board of Regents this summer approved an Undergraduate Water Resources Certificate Program at UGA. Administered by the School of Forest Resources, the program is also open to students in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Botany, Crop and Soil Sciences, Ecology, Engineering, Entomology, Environmental Design, Environmental Health Science, Geology, Geography and Marine Sciences.

The program requires students to complete five core courses plus a seminar. It prepares students for careers in water resources, where the demand for trained professionals is rapidly increasing. For more information, go to: www.uga.edu/water. --Todd Rasmussen



Stanley receives International Paper Company scholarship

Rashida Stanley, a wildlife ecology major from Macon, Georgia is first recipient of the International Paper Company Scholarship. The \$10,800 award will support and mentor forest resources students who will diversify the student body as well as the forest resources workforce.

In addition to covering in-state tuition, fees, room, board, book and personal expenses, the award includes internship employment at IP during the summer months. Stanley and future recipients will be mentored by IP team members, including career guidance and an opportunity to “shadow” various company employees in their professions. ▲

GIS Day to Highlight Digital Mapping Technology

On November 14th, GIS Day, the School’s Spatial Information Lab will host the students of Oconee County’s forestry and wildlife management class for a multi-media presentation to showcase real-world applications of GIS technology. The students and their instructor, Sidney Bell, helped to map the Thompson Mills Forest, digitally recording the forest’s interesting features, including the Pinetum, granite outcrops and pedestrian-only walking trails.

Other highlights include map displays from The Timber Company, WSFR students and other Oconee High School students. GIS Day is sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, the University Consortium of GIS, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Library of Congress and the ESRI.

--Tripp Lowe

Maymester In New Zealand

Thirty UGA students (20 from WSFR) taking Natural Resources Conservation (FORS 4270) spent four weeks of Maymester 2001 on the south island of New Zealand.

They studied issues of wildlife management, forestry, geological formation of the islands, wetlands management, recreation and tourism and more. For more information contact: Michael Tarrant, associate professor, recreation and leisure studies, Building 1, room 309.



WSFR Hosts International Workshop

Scientists from around the world discussed the future of urban sewer and waste water systems at the International Water Workshop held at the Georgia Center in May. Hosted by the Warnell School of Forest Resources, the workshop looked at the vulnerability of water quality in urban and suburban watersheds.



Workshop organizer Dr. M. Bruce Beck, UGA's eminent scholar of environmental systems analysis, said the real chal-

lenge is to develop systems that can restore global material cycles, restore the aquatic environment to acceptable levels and at the same time be compatible with existing waste water treatment plants.

"Cities quicken the pace of environmental cycles," said Beck. "We need to look at ways to lessen our impact, slow the pace, and that means adopting systems that will work in sympathy with each other and with nature." ▲

CLUTTER NAMED HARGREAVES DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Dr. Mike Clutter, former director of decision support and information resources at The Timber Company, has been named Hargreaves Distinguished Professor of Forest Finance. He assumed the position May 1, 2001. His responsibilities include teaching and research in forest finance, with particular emphasis on timberland investments, financial returns of forest operations, forest portfolio analysis and the financial impacts of current and proposed state and federal regulations.



Clutter (right) with WSFR Dean Arnett C. Mace, Jr.

"Our father would be so pleased that this professorship benefits not only the faculty of the School, but also the students," said Carol Hargreaves Ryan. "And he would be doubly pleased that it is going to Mike Clutter, who is also his friend's son," said Dee Hargreaves Forester. Clutter's father, the late Dr. Jerome Clutter, was professor of forest management and founder of the School's Plantation Management Research Cooperative.

Clutter earned a PhD in forest biometrics and finance at UGA in 1992, an MFR in quantitative timber management at UGA in 1983 and a BS in forest resources at Mississippi State University in 1981. He worked as a research scientist and later as research project leader for Union Camp Corporation in Savannah from 1983 to 1994. In 1994, he moved to Atlanta as manager of Forest Resources Decision Support for the Georgia-Pacific Corporation where he was promoted to director of Decision Support. ▲

School Hosts Tree Improvement Conference

The School hosted the 26th Biennial Southern Forest Tree Improvement Conference at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in June. More than 120 forest geneticists, tree breeders, biotechnologists and other forest scientists attended the conference, which also included a meeting of the North American Quantitative Forest Genetics Group.

Attendees saw 40 volunteer oral and poster presentations and four invited speakers who presented papers addressing various aspects of the meeting's theme, "Impact of Genetics and Silviculture on Wood Quality.

Bruce Bongarten, Sarah Covert, Jeff Dean and Scott Merkle served as conference organizers. ▲

...Merkle continued from page 11 as Merkle and UGA geneticists Rich Meagher and Clayton Rugh showed in 1998.

The researchers engineered yellow-poplar trees that can take up toxic mercury from the soil, convert it to a relatively inert form and release it as a vapor into the atmosphere. Their groundbreaking research, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Energy and the Warnell School of Forest Resources, was featured on the cover of *Nature Biotechnology* in fall 1998.

In addition to an active research program, Merkle also teaches several courses and serves as graduate coordinator in the School. Only a handful of colleagues know he was also the drummer in a rock and roll band, *Wet Dog*, which Merkle says never practiced except when they played, usually in someone's basement.

"Everyone played pretty well, but no one could sing," he says with a sigh. "That's been the story of my life in bands."

Still, Merkle is hardly an arm-chair rock fan. He once curled up on an auditorium floor around a drumstick thrown by *Who* drummer, Keith Moon, until fans in the crowd stopped kicking and clawing at him to give it up. "Somebody got the other one," Merkle admits. But twenty-five years later, he's still got the one he risked life and limb for.

In college, Merkle was the drummer in another band, *Too Many Cooks*, so named because it included not one but two musicians named Cook, a husband and wife who fronted the band. He describes that

band as "lousy but enthusiastic."

"His loss to the music world was certainly our gain here in Forest Resources," says associate dean Bob Teskey, laughing. "Scott's greatest passion though, is finding out how things work."

"Scott's interested in contribut-



ing to good, solid science, but also in having fun," says research coordinator Paul Montello. "His lectures and labs are always sprinkled with witticisms."

"Scott's sort of humor usually makes people groan," says former grad student Rodney Robichaud. "He loves puns. He can't help himself."

Less well-known is that Merkle is an accomplished writer and editor and serves as a reviewer for several top biotech journals. He's also a closet connoisseur of Southern barbeque and a collector of unique sci-fi items. "Just ask him about his Martian cards," urges Robichaud.

Four years ago, the Merkses braved an all-new challenge -- parenthood. After months of research, planning, paperwork, fingerprinting -- and waiting, they were finally able to adopt a son, David, now 4, from an orphanage in Ekaterinburg, Russia. Two years later, they adopted a daughter, Lara, 2, from an orphanage in Moscow.

"So now we've gone from essentially controlling our destiny to losing all control," says Merkle, laughing. "What we went through to do this is a story in itself. It's not for the faint of heart. But we've created this little family, and now like most new parents, we're doing the best we know how." Roberta, who was for many years technical director of the NIH Biomedical Resource Center at UGA's Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, resigned in September to work at home full-time.

Despite his considerable research achievements, Merkle still ponders the fundamental questions of plant growth and development.

"The one goal I really spend a lot of time on is figuring out how to take a piece of a tree that's already determined to be one thing and make it something else," Merkle explains. "Plants, like animals, are always laying down cells that will become something - a leaf, a branch. But it's possible to make cells forget what they're supposed to become and do something else."

"Right now, we don't really understand what changes in gene expression make that happen - and when they do happen, we don't always know why or how. Understanding these mechanisms is really where I want to go in my work." ▲

Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded for 2001-2002

Forestry Alumni Scholarships -

James Chappell, Camille Holbrook, Katie Myszka, Stacy Patrick, Nathan Wilson, Amanda Newman, Alina Ruiz

Forestry Alumni Freshman and Pre-Professional Scholarships -

Stephanie Pratt, David Duncan, Anna Moyer

William Tyler Ray Scholarships -

David James, Justin Johnson, Shannon Ward, Leigh Agan, Brendan Brown, Rashida Stanley

C. M. and Bernice C. Stripling Freshman Scholarship -

Jackson Eubank, IV

C. M. and Bernice C. Stripling Professional Scholarship -

Amanda Morgan

Judith Fitzgerald Brooks Memorial Scholarship -

Nathan Wilson

Arlene C. and Tilden Norris Scholarship -

Kent Johnson

Martha Love May Memorial Scholarship -

Meredith Tart

E. E. Provost Scholarship -

Meredith Greene

Rayonier, Inc. Foundation

Scholarship - John David Elliott

Georgia Forestry Assoc./Georgia Forestry Foundation

Fellowship - M.Chad Lincoln

Southeastern Society of American Foresters Scholarship -

Patrick Lunceford

Thomas G. Dedrick Memorial Scholarship -

Nathan Wilson

Lucian Whittle Scholarship -

Stephen Box



Charles Killmaster, a Wildlife Ecology major from Newnan, GA., received two scholarships, the Earl Jenkins/Gladys Beach Memorial Award; Yancey Scholarship

E.L. Cheatum Award -

Craig White

Stoddard/Burleigh/Sutton Award -

Matthew Marshall

Superior Pine Products Company

- Marshall Coile

Charles A. Leavell Scholarship -

Erin Kallman

Gerald B. and Charlotte Alexander Saunders Scholarship -

Wise Batten

Arnett C. and Ruth Mace Memorial Scholarship -

Wise Batten

Fredrick Williams Kinard, Jr. Scholarship -

Caleb Pool

Archie E. Patterson Scholarship -

Christyne Scofield

Ben Meadows Scholarship -

Kris Robbins

Blue Key Honor Society -

Carol Guy, Allison Hogan

Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities -

Camille Holbrook

AgHill Council Outstanding Senior in Forest Resources -

Allison Hogan

Forest Service Science Award -

Jeremy Robert Shaw

Outstanding Forestry Senior Award -

H. Davis Gibbs

Outstanding Senior in Wildlife -

Heather Venter

John Mabry RTA Scholarship -

William Cropp

Xi Sigma Pi Inductees

James Chappell, Marshall Coile, Niki Constantine, Odie Durden, Daniel Dyer, Adam Eidson, Mitchell Gibbs, Meredith Greene, Carol Guy, Jonathan Hayes, Allison Hogan, Stephanie Hyder, Scott Jackson, Lewis Jordan, Camille Kirkham, Sara Latshaw, Roger Lowe, Kevin Malone, Jason McGee, Ira Parnell, Stacy Patrick, Kent Powell, Kris Robbins, Brian Schoch, Christyne Scofield, Tiffanie Starr, Tamara Terry, Tina Walther, Craig White, Nathan Wilson

ARBORETUM OPEN HOUSE KICKS OFF NEW "FRIENDS" ORGANIZATION



WSFR's Dan Williams (left) and Anthony Myrick plant an American chestnut tree to commemorate a new beginning for the Thompson Mills Forest and State Arboretum.

More than 150 people attended the State Arboretum Open House on April 30 at Thompson Mills Forest in Braselton. Dan Williams and Anthony Myrick of the WSFR



planted a tree in honor of Claud

estry Commission, spoke about the importance of trees and recognized National Arbor Day. Dr. Kim Coder discussed the purpose and values of the Arboretum. Dean Mace invited guests to join the new Friends of the Arboretum organization, which will guide the Arboretum's future growth and development.

For information about becoming a Friends member, contact Mary McCormack, director of development and alumni relations. ▲

Brown, a driving force behind establishing the Forest back in 1980. Visitors enjoyed Arboretum tours from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Jackson County Commissioner Harold Fletcher welcomed guests and elected officials, including State Representative Pat Bell, who spoke about the Arboretum's great potential as an educational resource for the Northeast Georgia area.

During dinner Dr. Scott Merkle talked about the history of Thompson Mills Forest. Fred Allen, director of the Georgia For-



Archie Patterson, professor emeritus of forest history and policy, who retired in 1981 after 40 years as a teacher and researcher in the School, is recuperating from a stroke suffered last year. Write to him at 240 Oakland Ave., Athens, GA 30606.

ALUMNI INFORMATION:



Photo by Chuck Moore

Mary McCormack, director
Alumni Relations & Development
 Warnell School of Forest Resources
 Athens, GA 30602-2152
 (706) 542-1011
 mmccorma@smokey.forestry.uga.edu

Ed Cooper:

A Life Among the Trees

By Helen Fosgate

Ed Cooper sits sideways in the front seat of the truck, lacing up his ankle high boots. The 60-year-old boots -- Ed's original and only pair -- are cracked and worn with finger-sized holes that, as he explains laughing, serve to "let the water out." He wears a straw hat and sunglasses and carries a 2-quart cooler and four small plastic cups.

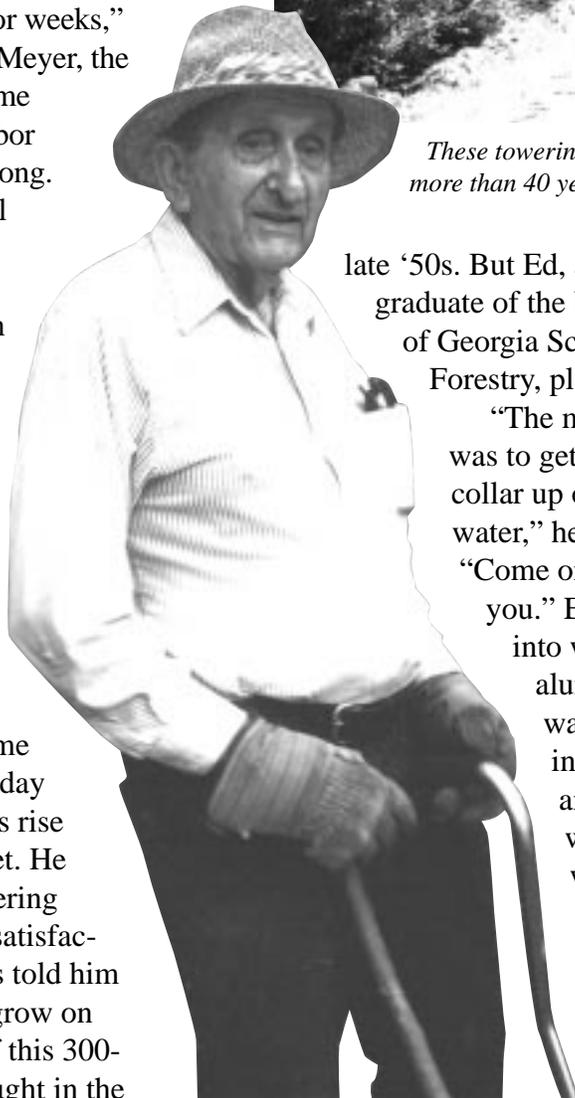
"He has been looking forward to this for weeks," whispers Eileen Meyer, the Coopers' long-time friend and neighbor who has come along.

"And he has it all planned out, so don't even try to pay for your own lunch. He won't hear of it."

Ed, 88, has set aside this day to show his visitors a forest near Fargo, where he planted acres of slash pine by hand some 40 years ago. Today many of the trees rise more than 90 feet. He looks at the towering trees with deep satisfaction. The experts told him pines wouldn't grow on swampy parts of this 300-acre farm he bought in the



These towering pines grew from tiny seedlings Ed Cooper planted by hand more than 40 years ago.



late '50s. But Ed, a 1934 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Forestry, planted on.

"The main thing was to get the root collar up out of the water," he says.

"Come on. I'll show you." Ed heads off into woods, an aluminum walking cane in one hand and a wooden walking stick in the other. "If you see me start to fall," he

says over his shoulder, "just push me back up!"

Ed uses his cane like a machete to clear the path ahead. He doesn't seem to feel the mid-afternoon heat – or the yellow flies and mosquitoes that buzz around us. About a 100 yards down the firebreak, he stops and points with his cane to a mound of earth. "Here," he says beaming, "is what I want you to see."

Several huge pines rise out of the mound, which is about six or eight feet long and perhaps four or five feet wide. Ed explains how he used this mounding technique to establish pines on land that is often several inches under water. Through the understory, we see more mounds, mature pines rising

continued on page 18 ...

photo by Helen Fosgate

...Cooper continued from page 17 from each.

"I also planted on rotten stumps and tussocks -- anything I could use to get the roots out of the water. We'd tried the same method in the swamps after the Big Fire and found it worked surprisingly well."

Though Ed spent most of his life in this region around Fargo, he grew up in Athens. He and his two brothers worked from an early age delivering the *Athens Daily News*. All three Cooper brothers graduated from UGA's forestry program -- John in 1932, Ed in 1934 and James in 1938. After graduation, John became one of the first college-educated foresters in the country working for a new agency, the U.S. Forest Service.

Ed also worked for the Forest Service, where one of his first jobs was to cruise the land that was to become the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in North Carolina. He later joined the Forest Farmer Program, which helped private landowners establish pine forests on eroded and marginal farmland across the southeast.

Like many others in the 1930s, Ed "lived from paycheck to paycheck and went where the jobs were." He was working in south Georgia when he met Martha, who was teaching school in Pearson. They eventually married, but not before their courtship was interrupted by World War II.

"I had just turned down a job in Apalachicola, Florida when

news broke that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor," says Ed, shaking his head. "This was just inconceivable to us. And now everybody's driving Japanese cars! We'd never have dreamed of buying anything from Japan right after the war. Things have changed so much in 50 years, you



Ed and Martha Cooper in Valdosta, Georgia.

just can't imagine."

Ed was already in the Army Reserves, and after training at Fort Riley, Kansas, he shipped out to Guadalcanal as a replacement reserve officer in Gen. MacArthur's island-hopping Bougainville Campaign. He helped secure air strips in the marshes and swamp lands and went on to serve in the Luzon Campaign.

Ed was 33 when he returned from the South Pacific and ready to settle down. He and Martha married in September 1946 and moved to Yazoo City, Mississippi where Ed worked with the Forest Farmer Program, and Martha continued a teaching career that would span 40 years. The Coopers returned to Georgia less than a year later when Ed went to work for Bill Ottmeier,

Sr., who managed 225,000 acres near Fargo.

"Naval stores was the big money crop then," he says. "The pine pulpwood market was very limited, and trees were cut for timber only after they had been 'boxed' [tapped for pine tar] on at least two sides."

The land, owned and managed by Superior Pine Products Co., was first under lease to Florida Pulp and Paper Co. and later to the St. Regis Paper Co. Ed worked the rest of his 32-year career in this remote region, where pines, turpentine, the swamp -- and fire shaped the people and culture.

Ed remembers the industry's early struggles to establish

pinus on land that supported a tangle of palmetto, gallberry and scrub. He recalls a big company field day attended by 30 St. Regis foresters who were studying ways to overcome the problems, among them the late Dr. Leon Hargreaves, who later served as dean of forestry at UGA.

"It was a whole 'nother world then," says Ed. "We were planting trees by hand with a dibble -- and direct seeding with cyclone seeders. We didn't see the first tree planting machine until the mid-50s."

Ed served as host to the many groups that visited St. Regis, among them UGA professors B. F. Grant and Norman Bishop, who hauled their senior classes to Fargo each year to see commercial forestry

continued on page 21 ...

Alumni on the Job

by Sarah Simpson

Brian Wommack never contemplated a career as a process reliability manager. But a love of forestry and people and a propensity for hard work landed him in exactly that position at the Trus Joist Corporation in Colbert, GA. A native of Moultrie, Brian credits 1972 UGA Forest Resources grad Mike Harrison with sparking his interest in forest resources when he worked with Mike in high school as a part-time forestry consultant.

Brian spent two years at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as a pre-forestry major, then came to UGA, fulfilling his childhood dream of being a Georgia Bulldog. Once here, he worked hard in his courses and participated in several university organizations. He graduated in December 1986 with a degree in timber management and finance.

“You don’t realize it while you’re there, but the School really prepares you for the work place,” said Brian. “I learned time management, team-building and leadership skills. From an analytical standpoint, it also taught me to think.”

Brian’s first job was in procurement with Southland Timber Company in Augusta, now Canal Wood Corporation. After being promoted several times, Brian took a job as procurement manager for Trus Joist, a wood manufacturing company that produces the patented engineered wood product, Parallam.

In January of 2000, Weyerhaeuser purchased Trus Joist.



While he continued his role as forester, Brian was appointed interim safety coordinator while the company completed a formal interview and hiring process for the position. During his brief tenure as safety coordinator, Brian helped to develop the Employee Safety Participation Program so that plant employees could voice concerns and offer possible solutions to safety problems. During this time, the Colbert plant completed more than two million work hours without one time-lost accident. Brian received the H.H. Jefferson Memorial Safety Award, presented by the Southeastern Forest Resources Association for promoting safety within the forest products industry.

Last spring Brian was promoted again into his current position of process reliability manager. He is responsible for the quality of raw materials coming into the plant and for designing more effective ways

to ensure safe delivery of TrusJoist products.

“I try to see where improvements can be made by using new systems, equipment, or teamwork,” said Brian. “I’m also learning to manage people, which is a new challenge for me.”

Brian is concerned not only with internal issues of safety and management but also strives to address the external issues of public image and education in his job as well.

“The forestry industry is facing a lot of challenges - environmentally and politically,” he said. “The School, now more than ever, needs to produce students capable of handling this changing climate.”

Brian does his part through the Partners in Education program, which gives him a chance to speak to school children about forestry-related issues. He also conducts plant tours, giving visitors an “on-the-job” glimpse of the forestry industry.

“What success I’ve had in my career, I attribute to the School and my professors there,” he said. “I tell students, ‘the forestry school didn’t give you your degree, you earned it.’ What it does give you is an opportunity and a base from which you can spring and develop your career. You shouldn’t forget that. It means a lot to be involved and give back whatever you can.”

(Contact Brian Wommack via email: wommacb@trusjoist.com or by mail at: 268 Office Dr., Colbert, Georgia 30628).

(Sarah Simpson has a bachelor’s degree in animal science, a master’s degree in animal nutrition and an interest in journalism).

CLASS NOTES

1940s

Thomas Eugene Avery (BSF 1949), 820 Tangle Oaks Dr., Bellville, TX 77418 is retired and struggling with prostate cancer. He would like to hear from any UGA foresters who'd like to write to him.

1950s

William F. Turner (BFS 1950), 9040 40th St., Pinellas Park, FL 33782-5622 is a Lt. retired, U.S. Army.

Charles O. Wike (BSF 1950), 3203 Flint Dr., Columbus, GA 31907-2029 is retired, which he says sure "beats working!"

Howard H. Jones, Jr. (BSF 1957) 1668 Hartland Dr., Decatur, Ga 30033-1438, is president of Berry-Jones Insurance Agency, Inc., Tucker, GA.

1960s

Frank Wetherbee (BSF 1961) Orchard Management Services, F. P. Wetherbee, Jr.; Frank Wetherbee Farms; Flint River Pecans; Schermer Pecans; SS and W Enterprises; and Gravel Hill Farms (new) mailing addresses: P.O. Box 3650, Albany, GA 31706-3650, phone: (229-888-2425), fax: (229-432-8881).

Johnny M. Brown (BSF 1963) Buckeye Nursery, Inc. P.O. Box 450, Perry, FL 32348, email: buckeyenursery@perry.gulfnet.com retired from Gilman Paper Co in Dec. 1999 and is currently president and general manager of Buckeye Nursery, Inc in Perry, FL.

John D. Nesbit (BSF 1965) Box 448, 4621 Forsyth St., Bagdad, FL 32530, email: jdnesebit@juno.com, is a lieutenant/equipment operator in the NASWF Fire Dept. in Milton, FL. He is "winding up 20

years with DOD in Aircraft Crash and Structural Fire Suppression and Rescue."

Charles Maynard (BSF 1965) 65 Blue Heron Point, Havana, FL 32333-4720, email: maynardc@lewismail.net, is chief of forest management with the Florida Division of Forestry in Tallahassee, FL. He and his wife, Becky, are proud grandparents of a new grandson, born in Feb.

Robert L. Bailey (M.S. 1968, Ph.D. 1972) 200 Robin Rd., Athens, GA 30605 retired from WSFR/UGA in March 2001 after 22 years and now works for Georgia-Pacific Corporation. New email: rbailey@gapac.com, phone: (404-245-2373), fax (706-559-0092).

Clyde Lester (BSF 1966, MS 1968) 3035 Pine Needle Rd., Augusta, GA 30909, email: clydeauty@aol.com, is retired from the UGA Cooperative Extension Service and currently works as a horticultural consultant. He was inducted into Gridiron Secret Society in spring 2000.

G. Marshall Garrett (BSF 1967) 3262 Lincolnton Rd. Washington, GA. 30673-2921 is a senior forester in logging and fiber with International Paper Co., Washington, GA.

William L. (Bill) Mathis (BSF 1967) 104 Dominica Ct. Statesboro, GA, 30458 email: wlmathis@frontiernet.net is president of Mathis Land Appraisals, Inc. in Register, GA. He retired from AgSouth Farm Credit in June 1999.

1970s

Lewis F. Southard (BSFR 1971) 779 Rockfish Valley Hwy, Nellysford, VA 22938, email: rivrbluff@aol.com, retired as chief of forest protection, Virginia Dept. of Forestry

after 30 years and began July 1, 2001 working as a fire protection specialist with the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C.

Billy Lancaster (BSFR 1971) was recently elected a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters, the organization's highest honor. Lancaster has been a member of the Southeastern SAF for 28 years, served in several leadership positions and is co-founder of the Georgia Division SAF Youth Camp. He is an active member of WSFR's Alumni Association, Xi Sigma Pi and the UGA Jayhole Club. He is branch manager of METRAC in Macon, GA, a leader in the transfer of technology for forestry safety and equipment.

Richard Koger (BSFR 1971) 160 Mockingbird Ln., Monroeville, AL 36460 was recently promoted to president, Alabama Woodlands, Inc., and vice-president and general manager of Alabama River Chip Mill Co, Inc. where he manages woodlands operations for a three-mill pulp and paper complex.

Kent Kammermeyer (M.S. 1975) 1565 Shoal Circle Rd., Clermont, GA 30527, a senior wildlife biologist in the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resource's Gainesville office, was recently named state "Wildlife Biologist of the Year." Kammermeyer has published 41 scientific papers and more than 100 popular articles about wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, turkeys, Canada geese, bears and snakes. He developed a census technique for counting geese on Lake Lanier, authored the 23-page booklet "Deer Herd Management for Georgia Hunters," and is an active member of the Southeast Deer Study Group.

1980s

Chris Canalos (M.S. 1982) 195 Lakeover

Dr., Athens, GA 30607,
email:chris_canalos@mail.dnr.state.ga.us is
a GIS specialist with the Georgia Dept. of
Natural Resources Heritage Program.

William M. Blum (M.S. 1983) 109
Woodcrest Dr., Griffin, GA 30223 is a
senior systems specialist at UGA's
Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station
in Griffin. He married Amy Sue Harrison
in January 2001.

Tom Burgan (M.S. 1988) is an information
systems analyst for the University of Virginia
Medical Center, Charlottesville, VA. where
he lives with his wife, Terry, and 2-year old
daughter, Jillian. He will complete an M.S.
degree in Health Evaluation Sciences in Fall
2001 at the Univ. of Virginia.

▶ 1990s ◀

Keith Moss (BSFR 1993) P.O. Box 408,
Hiawassee, GA 30546 is forester with the
Georgia Forestry Commission. He conducts

southern forestry inventory analysis in
northeast Georgia. He and his wife, Heather,
became parents when son Hunter was born
Dec. 1, 2000.

Charles "Todd" Witt (BSFR 1993) 4518
Water Oak Trail, Lake Park, GA 31636-
4970, email: toddwitt@gilmanbp.com was
recently promoted to area forester with
Gilman Building Products Co., Perry, FL.

Teri Vogel, (BSFR 1993) 3266 B, Oakwood
Village Ln., Atlanta, GA 30341,
email:libtmv@langate.gsu.edu is science
liaison/reference librarian to the biology and
chemistry departments at Pullen Library,
Georgia State University.

David Henderson (BSFR1995, M.S. 1998)
married Traci Leigh Reed of Marietta in
March 2001. He is a wildlife manager at Sea
Pines Plantation, Hilton Head, S.C.

Scott Mooney (BSFR 1995, MFR 1999)
12100 Leeward Walk Circle, Alpharetta,

GA 30005, phone (770-753-4480) is
assistant director for real estate transac-
tions with Forest Investment Associates in
Atlanta, Ga. He joined FIA in January and
is responsible for timberland acquisitions
and dispositions. His wife, **Christy
Mooney**, former development and alumni
director at the WSFR is now director of
major gifts for Winthrop University, Rock
Hill, S.C. She calls on Winthrop alums in
metro Atlanta and across Georgia.

Sarah Workman (Ph.D. forest resources
1996) School of Forest Resources and
Conservation, 134 Newins-Ziegler Hall,
P.O. Box 110410, Univ. of Florida,
Gainesville, FL 32611-0410.

Chad Sexton (BSFR 1997) 329 Othar Lee
Rodgers Rd., Fitzgerald, GA 31750 is a
fisheries technician II with the Georgia
Dept. of Natural Resources.

Alison Bosnich (BSFR 1998) 4250
Greensboro Hwy, Watkinsville, GA 30677 is

...Cooper continued from page 18
first-hand.

We stop at a lonely cross-
roads, the once thriving commu-
nity of Tarver, where Ed de-
scribes the rows of shotgun
houses where the turpentiners
lived and worked. He also talks
about the company's extensive
local phone system, which served
as a lifeline to not only to work-
ers, but to the community.

"Each person had their own
ring," he says. "Mine was two
shorts and a long. If it was a
long-short-long, that was Zeke
Petty's call. All the managers
had phones in their houses – and
there was a phone in each of the
fire towers. If a woman was

havin' a baby, someone would
run to a manager's house and call
for help."

Ed will never forget the Big
Fire of 1955. It started in Thelma,
just two miles from company
land, and in less than 24 hours
spread all the way to the
Suwanne River, burning more
than 100,000 acres, half of it in
the St. Regis tract.

"It was a terrible sight," he
says. "The main fire was 24 miles
long and several miles wide. We
got ahead of it, but had no chance
of stopping it. Afterward, there
was nothing left but black,
smoldering stubble. We had
50,000 acres to replant, but we
learned a lot from it, too."

Ed's shirt is soaked through,
though he hardly seems winded.
He doesn't often get to visit this
forest he planted "as a weekend
hobby" so many years ago. But
the sun is casting shadows
through the big trees, and it's time
to head back to Valdosta

Ed's education at UGA, and
the Coopers' long, rich association
with both forestry and education in
Georgia led them to make a gift of
forest land to the School in recent
years. They want others to benefit,
as they have, from the bounty of
their south Georgia forest. ▲

*(Write to Ed and Martha Cooper,
804 Blythwood Rd., Valdosta, GA
31602.)*

a second year nursing student at the Medical College of Georgia (Athens campus).

Jason Oates (BSFR 1998) 283 Tallant Store Rd., Americus, GA 31709 is area manager of Valley Wood, Americus, where he provides forest management assistance to landowners in Georgia and Alabama.

Stephanie Graham (BSFR 1998) married Ted Sisk of Atlanta in June 2001. She received her master's degree in secondary science education from Georgia Southern University in May 2001.

Shannon (Smalley) Zimmerman (BSFR, wildlife 1999) and **Patrick Zimmerman** (BSFR, wildlife 2000) 687 Trotter Trail, Lawrenceville, GA 30045, email: smalley@hotmail.com married in Sept.

2000. Shannon is an associate transportation ecologist with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation. Pat is an environmental biologist with Tetra Tech EMI, Inc.

Brian Tomlinson (BSFR 1999) 115 Tom Chapman Blvd. # 1905, Warner Robins, GA 31088 was married to Alicia McElroy in May 1999 and currently works as GIS/GPS coordinator for the Georgia Forestry Commission.

▶ 2000s ◀

Shane Drew (BSFR, wildlife 2000) 2075 Clear Lake Rd., Newton, GA 31770 is working (with Doug Hall) for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Albany, GA.

Scott Nesbit (MFR 2000) was recently

promoted to the rank of corporal in the University of Georgia Police Dept.

Brian Stone (BSFR 1999, M.S. 2001) 301 Barrington Hall Dr., Apt. 714, Macon, GA 31220 works for Forest Resource Consultants.

Troy Baker (M.S. 2000) 8822 S.W. 53rd Ave., Portland, OR 97219-3325 is working for Harza Engineering Co., 6000 Meadows Rd., Suite 102, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

Todd Plummer (M.S. 2001) was hired as Information, Outreach and Development Coordinator at the Institute for Bird Populations in Pt. Reyes Station, California, upon completion of his graduate degree in Dec. 2001. The institute is a non-profit bird conservation organization that conducts bird population research on a global scale.

IN MEMORIAM

William Rabun "Bill" Johnson, Jr. (BSF 1938) 87, of Greensboro, GA, died on November 18, 2000. Johnson retired in 1978 after working for Georgia Kraft for 48 years. He worked for many years afterward as a forestry consultant. He was a past president of the American Cancer Society, and a member of the Historical Preservation Committee of the Northeast Georgia Planning Commission.

John Thomas "Tom" Robinson, Jr. (BSF 1942) 84, of Summerville, S.C. died on July 3, 2001. He worked for Westvaco Southern Woodlands Division for 36 years, where he was district forest manager when he retired. Robinson was a life-long sailor and in 1934 won the Mt. Pleasant Yacht Club Class C Regatta. He was a naturalist at Oconee State Park in 1939 and later helped establish Westvaco's Edisto Nature Trail.

Harvie M. Jordan (BSF 1961), of Cumming, GA, 62, died January 11, 2001. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 34 years and retired in 1997 as resources manager for the Lake Sidney Lanier Project. He was a member and past president of the Forsyth County Lions Club.

Robert Lee Lochmiller II (BSFR 1977), 45 of Stillwater, OK died March 3, 2000. After receiving his bachelor's degree in forestry at UGA, he earned a master's degree in wildlife biology from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He moved to Stillwater in 1985 as assistant professor of zoology at Oklahoma State University. He was promoted to associate professor in 1989, full professor in 1994 and regents professor in 1998. He was the first faculty member at OSU to receive the National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award. He

received the Oklahoma Award for contributions to the Oklahoma Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He was serving as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management at the time of his death.

J. Henry Stuckey (BSF 1948), 78, of Columbia, S.C. died on January 15, 2001. Stuckey founded a forestry consulting firm in Kingstree, S.C., which he operated for more than 50 years. He served twice in the S.C. House of Representatives, once in 1955-1956 and again from 1963-1968. He served on the House Agriculture, Ways and Means, and the Medical, Military and Public Municipal Affairs committees. In 1970 he was elected a member of the S.C. Public Service Commission and served for 8 years. In Dec. 2000, the S.C. Dept. of Transportation voted to name S.C. Highway 261 East from the town limits of Kingstree to the intersection of S.C. 261 the "J. Henry Stuckey Highway" in recognition of his many years of distinguished public service.



The new \$1.3 million Aquatic Biotechnology and Environmental Laboratory, recently completed at Whitehall Forest, includes toxicology laboratories for testing fish under highly controlled conditions. The Lab, funded by the Georgia Research Alliance, will accommodate fresh and saltwater species, including specialized strains developed for environmental hazard assessment, biomedicine and biotechnology.

THE DANIEL B. WARNELL SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES

Limited Edition Print

Jill Leite's original watercolors and fine art prints are collected by University officials, faculty, and generations of alumni. This detailed print edition of the Warnell School of Forest Resources is limited to 750 prints and is individually signed and numbered by the artist.

Superior craftsmanship and the finest materials preserve this historic scene, which is offered double matted and framed, to complement the home or office. A history of the Forestry School is included. The artist is officially licensed by the University of Georgia and 15% from the sales of this print will be donated to the Foundation for the Warnell School of Forest Resources.

Jill Leite Studio • 706-549-4442
 110 Pioneer Drive • Athens, GA 30605 Email:
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Mary McCormack, Director of Alumni Programs
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