

Spring 2002

the forester's **LOG**

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

CHANGING
the **shape**
of **ANIMAL**
RESEARCH

Moving Forward Despite the Economy

BY DEAN ARNETT C. MACE, JR.

One of my favorite quotes, which I probably overuse, is from Emerson who said: "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it." Like most of you, we are experiencing budget reductions, which will require us to conduct our programs in a very different way so as not to either defer or eliminate planned activities.

The 2.5 percent reduction in FY '02 is being handled with minimal impact on our core programs. This is due to an excellent faculty and staff willing to either assume additional responsibilities or modify their planned activities. We are also able to offset some of this reduction because of the success of our faculty and staff in acquiring competitive contracts and grants.

While the General Assembly is still in session at the time of this writing, budget reductions in FY 03 will be in the range of 5 percent, with the possibility of 14.3 percent cut in the Forestry Research Line Item, one of our four state budgets. The House has restored this to a 5 percent reduction, and I had good meetings with key Senate leaders. A number of you have been very helpful in contacting key leaders, and I am most grateful for your support and assistance.

This level of reduction will require us to eliminate some vacant faculty and staff positions and delay the filling of others. We will also



photo by Chuck Moore

have to reduce the number of graduate assistantships, and reduce operating expenses and travel. While these measures will have an impact, the strength of the faculty, staff and School as a whole will enable us to continue to provide quality instruction, research, and service programs. This downturn in the economy will also require us to reassess our priorities and the manner in which we deliver programs and information. It will also force us to increase the efficiency of conducting business and programs.

The economic downturn has also significantly reduced the return on our endowments. While the return is minimal, interest from our endowments and private gifts are vital to the

current and future excellence of the School. Most agree that the programs of the future, which will continue to remain strong and are viewed as Centers of Excellence, will be those that are successful in acquiring private support.

While we have challenges, we have had an excellent year and look forward to graduation this spring and the forthcoming year. We are fortunate that the reductions we are experiencing aren't as severe as those in many other states. Our faculty and staff have done an excellent job of securing external funding through contracts and grants. A report from the Office of the Vice President for Research shows new awards from WSFR grants and contracts rose by 44 percent from fiscal year 2000 to 2001.

You have only to look through the pages of this magazine to see the examples of our excellence and the outstanding accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. Ron Hendrick, associate professor of forest ecology, was named to Georgia Trend magazine's "40 Under 40," a list of young innovative educators, scientists and professionals in the state.

Wildlife professor Bob Warren is currently serving as president-elect of The Wildlife Society and will assume the office of president in September. In these leadership roles

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Toxicologist Richard
Winn (above) has
patented a tiny
genetically engineered
fish for screening
environmental toxins.

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*cover photo by
Chuck Moore*

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the changing shape of

animal research

By HELEN FOSGATE

A University of Georgia researcher has patented a tiny, genetically engineered fish to help assess health hazards in the environment. Richard Winn, a toxicologist in UGA's Warnell School of Forest Resources worked for five years to develop the transgenic fish, a guppy-sized Japanese medaka that carries a gene scientists can use to gauge the damaging effects of chemical contaminants on the body.

"Fish are particularly sensitive indicators of contaminants in water and make ideal models for this type of research," said Winn. "Beyond that, fish are finally being recognized for their comparative value as an animal model in environmental and biomedical research."

Winn conducts his research in the new \$1.3 million Aquatic and Biotechnology and Environmental Laboratory completed in August 2001 in Whitehall Forest near the UGA campus. Funded by the Georgia Research Alliance, the lab includes toxicology laboratories for testing fish under highly controlled conditions.

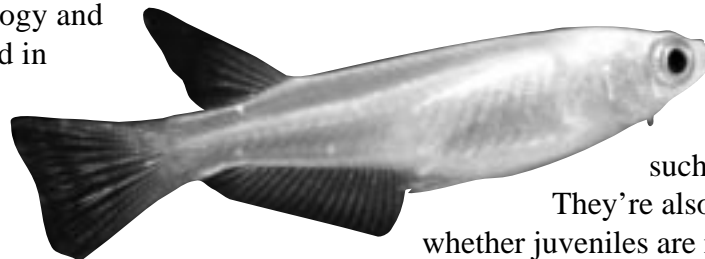
After exposure of the fish to a chemical, researchers look for changes in the target gene's DNA. The

research, supported by the National Institutes of Health, shows remarkably similar responses in fish when compared to studies in mice and rats.

"A small mutation in the DNA can have serious or even devastating effects, regardless of the species," said Winn. "For example, one deviation in one DNA sequence could lead to something as serious as cancer. Fish are showing us that what critter you use as a model becomes less important than the questions you ask."



In a collaborative study with the Environmental Protection Agency, researchers are using Winn's fish to help determine whether the chemical byproducts created in the disinfection of drinking water could cause cancer. After exposure to the byproducts for nine months, the fish are analyzed for genetic mutations on the target gene.



The scientists are also testing the effectiveness of chemicals that claim to reduce mutations or prevent cancer, such as green tea. They're also investigating whether juveniles are more sensitive to chemical toxicants. Winn says preliminary studies shows that young, developing fish are far more susceptible than adults to genetic damage from exposure



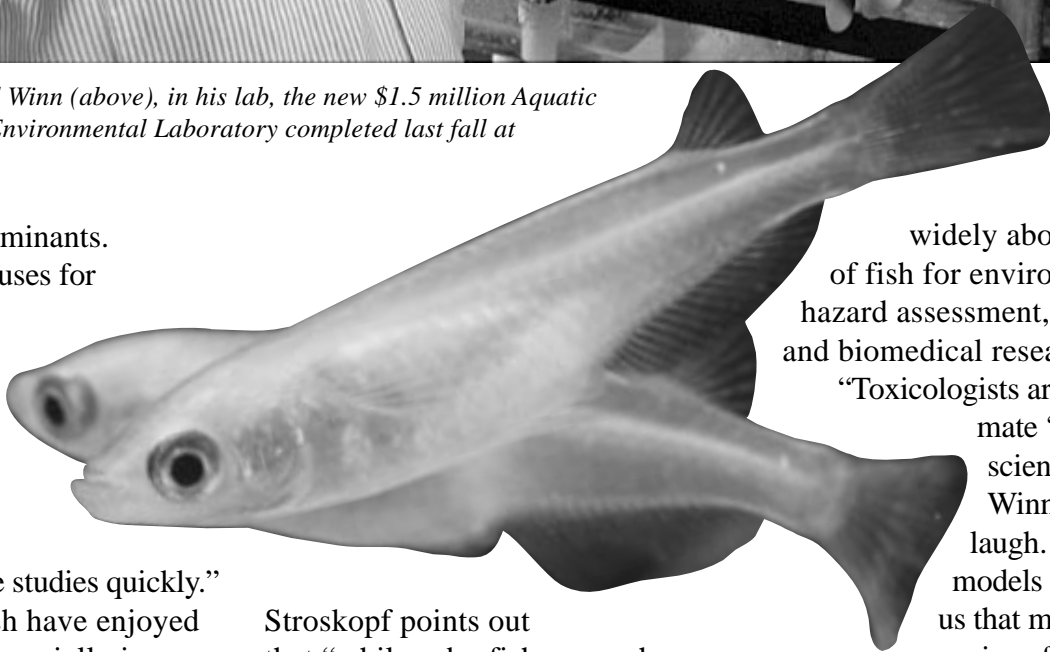
photo by Chuck Moore

Toxicologist Richard Winn (above), in his lab, the new \$1.5 million Aquatic Biotechnology and Environmental Laboratory completed last fall at Whitehall Forest.

to chemical contaminants.

“The potential uses for the fish are endless,” says Winn. “They are smaller, cheaper to keep and maintain, and we can use lots of them and replicate studies quickly.”

While zebrafish have enjoyed more attention, especially in developmental biology research, the transgenic Japanese medaka may finally be coming into its own. In a recent issue of the *Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Journal*, editor Michael



Stroskopf points out that “while zebrafish researchers are enjoying improved funding, other fish models are receiving far less attention and funding support than they deserve.”

Over the past several years, Winn has written and spoken

widely about the value of fish for environmental hazard assessment, toxicology and biomedical research.

“Toxicologists are the ultimate ‘show me’ scientists,” says Winn, with a laugh. “The fish models are showing us that many of the previous findings with rats were right on track. Fish are receiving greater attention for their ability to demonstrate the unifying principles across species lines that make animal studies truly valuable and applicable to human health.” ▲

FACULTY NEWS

Robert Bailey, who retired in March 2001, has been granted the rank of professor emeritus by the Board of Regents.

Ludek Bartos, an international authority on deer behavior, is visiting the School as a Fulbright Scholar. Bartos, head of the ethology group at the Institute of Animal Production in Prague, Czech Republic, is working with wildlife professor, **Karl Miller** on joint research projects at the WSFR Deer Research Facility. He is also teaching a graduate seminar course in wildlife ethology.



M. Bruce Beck, professor and eminent scholar of water resources, was elected to serve a 3-year term on the Strategic Council of the International Water

Association (IWA). He has also been appointed director of the IWA's new sustainability program with responsibilities to develop annual, international symposia on sustainable water resources management. Beck's new book, *Environmental Foresight and Models: A Manifesto* was published in March by Elsevier Science. He recently coauthored another book, *Modeling, Simulation and Control of Urban Wastewater Systems*, published by Springer, Berlin. Beck and post doc **Femi Osidele** were awarded a \$217,000 contract with the EPA for research into *Sensitivity and Uncertainty Analysis Methods for FRAMES-3MRA*, a multi-media hazardous waste modeling framework.

Michael Conroy, assistant leader in the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit and adjunct professor of wildlife,

coauthored a new book, *Analysis and Management of Animal Populations*, published by Academic Press. In it, authors **Byron Williams**, chief of the Cooperative Research Units, U.S. Geological Survey; **James Nichols**, U.S. Geological Survey and Conroy link wildlife management, evaluation and conservation to modeling, estimation and decision-making.



Richard Daniels, professor of quantitative forest management, and **Rhett Jackson**, assistant professor of water resources, were recognized at UGA Honor's Day for outstanding teaching.

Tim Harrington, associate professor of silviculture, resigned in January to take a job as research forester with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in Olympia, WA.



Ronald Hendrick, associate professor of forest ecology, was named to Georgia Trend Magazine's 2001 "40 Under 40," a list of innovative and up-and-coming educators, scientists, lawyers and professionals in the state.

Kris Irwin, public service assistant, received the National Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year Award for 2002. Irwin, one of five recipients nationwide, was recognized for his commitment to environmental education and his efforts in developing educational materials and workshops for K-12 teachers. Irwin was the Georgia Outstanding PLT Educator in 2001.

Daniel Markewitz, assistant professor of forest soils, and **Daniel Richter, Jr.'s** (Duke University) book, *Understanding Soil Change: Soil Sustainability Over Millennia, Centuries and Decades*, received a very favorable review in the February 7 issue of the journal *Nature*. Reviewer David Schimel writes, "This book fills an important niche in the biogeochemical literature, and not only as a regional case study...[It] demonstrates the increasing maturity of soil science."

Jeff Mayo, assistant professor of forest business, resigned in January to take a position with the Wachovia Timberland Investment Group in Atlanta.

Scott Merkle, professor of forest biotechnology, had articles about his American chestnut research featured in two national publications in March, including the journal *Science* and *Scientific American*. Merkle is helping with efforts to restore the American chestnut to eastern forests, after the trees were wiped out by blight in the first half of the century.



Joe Meyers, wildlife biologist with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and **Michael Conroy**, adjunct professor of wildlife, received a \$25,000 grant from the Georgia DNR Nongame, Endangered Species Division to begin the first year of a 3-year study on the ecology and habitat use of the eastern indigo snake in Georgia.

Karl Miller, professor of wildlife management, and **James H. Miller**, a U.S. Forest
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Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center

opens near Savannah



Carolyn Warnell Downs (left), Carolyn Bryan and Mary Warnell (far right) pose with portrait of Mary Kahrs Warnell.

More than 200 people attended the Dedication Ceremony and Open House at the new Mary Kahrs Warnell Center near Savannah last November. Effingham County School Superintendent Michael Moore spoke about the

Center's educational value, and Effingham County Manager David Rutherford discussed its community benefits. Mary Warnell (right), granddaughter of Mary Kahrs Warnell, talked



photos by Chuck Moore

about the family's long affiliation with both forestry and education in the Savannah area.

Warnell School of Forest Resources Dean Arnett C. Mace, Jr. dedicated the Center on behalf of the University of Georgia Foundation. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception were held outside following the program.

The Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center, completed in August, provides programs about forest ecosystems and sustainable forest management. It is located within the 1,900 acre Dorothy Warnell Research, Education and Demonstration Forest. The Center

is named in honor of Mary Kahrs Warnell, wife of Daniel B. Warnell and the mother of five children, including sisters Dorothy, who died

in 1996 and Carolyn Warnell Bryan, who deeded the land for both

the forest and the Center.

For more information about Center programs or to schedule a visit, contact Center Coordinator Gail Lutowski 912-330-0531. ▲



Last December, Lott and Barber Architects received an Honor Award for Architectural Excellence from the Savannah Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for their design of The Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center.

The jury was impressed "with the way architects addressed environmental issues by using local materials...The simple but beautiful outdoor classroom created a return to the primitive campfires of our ancestors."

OUT OF AFRICA

Fourteen students taking a new course, International Issues in Wildlife Conservation (FORS 5250/7250), spent two weeks in South Africa in December and January with instructors John Carroll and Steven Castleberry. The group visited the high grasslands near Dullstroom, Sabis Game Reserve and Kruger National Park, and finally Heilbron in the Free State. Students conducted wildlife surveys in the RAMSAR Reserve in Verloren Vallei and on private ranches in Dullstroom, where they saw a number of endangered birds and mammals in this threatened grassland ecosystem. They participated in an a three-day ecotraining course near Kruger National Park and visited the Orange River area where they learned about a new program to use sustainable sport hunting of guineafowl and other

photo by Steven Castleberry



wildlife to enhance rural economic development and promote wildlife-friendly agriculture.

To learn more and to see lots of great photos, visit the web site at: www.forestry.uga.edu/warnell/faculty/html/carroll/africa/index.htm.

This course provides a first hand understanding of the issues facing wildlife managers around the world. For more information, contact Dr. John Carroll at: jcarroll@smokey.forestry.uga.edu or (706-542-5815). ▲

...Dean's Column continued from inside cover

he is helping to guide the policies of an international organization of nearly 9,000 wildlife professionals. Bruce Beck, professor and eminent scholar of water resources, was elected to a three-year term on the Strategic Council of the International Water Association. And public service assistant Kris Irwin was recently named a national Project Learning Tree Educator of the Year.

The Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center, dedicated last

November, is now in full swing. Its programs are educating hundreds of Georgia school children across the state about forest resources. And gifts to the Friends of the Arboretum organization are helping us to set goals and plan future development of Thompson Mills Forest and State Arboretum.

A generous gift from Len and Beverly Woodward of Rome, Georgia, will support academic programming, scholarships, as well as research and faculty development in the School.

We have so much to be proud of and thankful for. And despite the

economic outlook, we are moving forward in a positive manner to be responsive to your needs. As Paul Harvey once said, "In times like these, it helps to recall that there have *always* been times like these."

But now, more than ever, we depend on private gifts to maintain the excellence of our programs in instruction, research, and service. Thanks for your continued support.

NEW FACULTY



Campbell Joseph (Joe) Nairn,
assistant professor of forest genomics

Education:

- PhD, plant molecular biology, University of Florida, 1990
- M.S., plant genetics, University of Florida, 1988
- B.S., botany, University of Central Florida, 1982



Laurie Schimleck, *assistant professor of wood quality*

Education:

- PhD, forestry, University of Melbourne, 1997
- B.F.S., forestry, University of Melbourne, 1993



2001 STAFF AWARD RECIPIENTS

John Bates (left), a forestry technician at Whitehall Forest; Pat Searcy (center), an accountant in the business office; and Henry Ayres (right), a forest technician at Whitehall Forest were named 2001 Staff Award recipients in the Warnell School of Forest Resources. The awards were presented during the School's annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend celebrations. Provided annually by the WSFR Alumni Association, the \$1,000 awards recognize and reward outstanding support personnel. ▲

... Faculty continued from page 6



Service scientist at Auburn University, received the 2001 Outstanding Book Award presented by the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society.

Their book, *Forest Plants of the Southeast and their Wildlife Uses*, is now available on CD-ROM through the Weed Science Society.

Bob Reinert, who retired in May 2001, was granted the rank of professor emeritus by the Board of Regents.

Sara Schweitzer, associate professor of wildlife ecology, received a 3-year \$62,675 grant from the U.S. Forest

Service to research avian responses to the establishment of native warm season grasses in the Georgia Piedmont. She also received a 1-year \$10,000 grant from the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Game Management Section to research the ecology of the introduced population of mottled ducks in northeastern Georgia and southeastern South Carolina.



Bob Warren, professor of wildlife ecology, is president-elect of The Wildlife Society. He will assume the office of president in Sept. 2000.

WSFR's OUTSTANDING GRAD STUDENTS



Tom Reinert, a PhD candidate in fisheries has been named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. The Who's Who designation recognizes outstanding academic and extracurricular accomplishment as well as leadership. Reinert, whose doctoral research looks at ways to restore the striped bass population in the lower Savannah River, was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He was recognized for his efforts in establishing the student chapter at WSFR and for designing and maintaining the chapter's web site (www.uga.edu/ugafish/ga-afs).

Reinert received an AFS scholarship to attend the 3rd World Fisheries Congress in Beijing, China in November 2000, and was recently invited to represent AFS at a regional hearing of the Oceans Policy Commission.

Last November, Reinert received second place and \$150 for his poster at the 16th Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation. In February, Reinert was selected an Outstanding Teaching Assistant and was recognized at UGA Honor's Day. He

has also been recognized by United Way of Northeast Georgia for his efforts in hosting "Goin' Fishing with United Way," a charity event for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Athens and the Athens Area Council on Aging. Reinert is the son of WSFR professor emeritus Bob Reinert and Shirley Reinert, Athens, Ga. ▲

Dawn Drumtra,

a graduate student in wildlife ecology, won the Student Research Award at the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She received a \$200 for her research about the importance of habitat quality, food and nest site availability of Prothonotary Warblers. She also received \$200 travel grant to attend the meeting.



Carolyn Belcher, a PhD student in fisheries, has been appointed to the South Atlantic Fisheries Manage-

ment Council Scientific and Statistical Committee. Belcher, whose work on sharks seeks to determine which species use Georgia estuaries as pupping and nursery grounds for their young, works under the direction of Cecil Jennings, leader of the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit.

Hector de los Santos-Posadas was selected as an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant and was recognized at UGA Honors Day in April.

Karen E. Francl, an M.S. candidate in wildlife ecology, has received the Joshua Laerm Award for Natural History Research. Francl, who is conducting a small animal

and habitat survey of the central Appalachian wetlands, is working with Dr. Steven Castleberry. Her work seeks to relate vegetation, basic hydrology and soil profiles to the area's small animal communities. Francl will use her award of \$466 to analyze 130 soil samples from her study sites. The award, established in honor of late UGA ecology professor, Joshua Laerm, supports both undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary research across campus in the natural sciences.





SWEENEY JOINS SCHOOL AS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND SERVICE

Jim Sweeney joined the WSFR faculty in January as professor and associate dean for research and service. He comes to the School from his former position as director of wildlife resources at Champion International Corporation. Before his work in the forestry products industry, Sweeney worked with the USDA Forest Service in Washington,

D.C. and at the North Central Forest Experiment Station. Prior to that, he was on the faculty at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He earned both his bachelors and masters degrees here at the WSFR.

Sweeney's new responsibilities include developing long-term strategies, initiatives and multi-disciplinary programs, the acquisition and allocation of resources and the integration of research and service programs in the School. jsweeney@forestry.uga.edu. ▲



Brooks Mendell, a PhD candidate in forest finance, received the Clutter Fellowship. The \$5,000 scholarship, named in honor of late WSFR forest resources professor Jerome L. Clutter, is awarded based on academic achievement. Mendell, who holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from MIT and an MBA from Berkley, worked for Weyerhaeuser Company from 1994 to 1998 in Aberdeen, Washington and in Barnesville, Georgia, where he was a harvest manager. Since 2000, Mendell has worked as a consultant with the forest products group at

Accenture in Atlanta. Mendell is the son of Steven and Barbara Mendell, San Diego, California. ▲

2002 GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM WINNERS

Category 1

1. Meredith Tart
2. Jeff Thompson
3. Beth Wright

Category 2

1. Matt Landreth
2. Charles Rose
3. Brooks Mendell

Category 3

1. Allen Sealock
2. Alexandra Pinho
3. Jim White

FOR THE DEER ENDOWMENT FUND

Tax-deductible donations enhance research on deer management and behavior at the University of Georgia Deer Pen Facility.

Research results have specifically benefitted hunters, sports enthusiasts, and deer managers. (see www.uga.edu/wsfr/deerpens for specific results)



To inquire about how to make a gift, contact:

Mary McCormack,
mmccorma@smokey.forestry.uga.edu
(706-542-1011)
Warnell School of Forest Resources
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602



BENCHMARK

Xi Sigma Pi forester Carol Guy (right) and Center for Forest Business director Bob Izlar try out the bench presented to the School by Xi Sigma Pi. The three-sided bench, made of curly grained maple and black walnut is by Thomas Timm of Somerville, S.C. Headed by Deek Cox, the project was a "demonstration of pride in our School and an appreciation for our experiences here as students."



FORESTRY CONCLAVE

The WSFR team finished 7th overall at the 45th Annual Forestry Conclave hosted by Texas A & M in Lake Tyler, TX. Highest scores were in the technical events, where the team finished 3rd in dendrology and 3rd in compass and pacing. Amanda Newman (left) and Leigh Agan (right) represented the School in fine fashion, placing 4th in the Women's Cross Cut Saw event. Team advisors were forestry prof David Newman and GIS lab coordinator, Tripp Lowe.

WILDLIFE CONCLAVE

Nine members in the UGA student chapter of The Wildlife Society competed at the 2002 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave hosted by Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. Brent Womack (right) won second place in drawing, first and second place in painting and best overall in the wildlife art competition for his painting, shown here. Craig Okraska won third place in the free form art competition. In the technical events, Jamie Gibbs and Brian Gates finished second in orienteering. The team placed third in the Quiz Bowl, and third overall. Wildlife faculty Steven Castleberry and John Carroll served as advisors.



timberland on **the block**

...amid forest company mergers, takeovers

By HELEN FOSGATE

Vast tracts of U.S. forest and timberland are changing hands amid the mergers and consolidations in the forest products industry. A study by researchers at the University of Georgia's Center for Forest Business shows more than 14 million acres have been sold in the past five years, 6 million in the Southeast, as companies seek to lessen their tax burdens and focus on core businesses.

"Returns in the forest products industry are down, making companies really take a look at their reasons for owning and paying taxes on income generated from timberland," said Mike Clutter, professor of forest finance in UGA's Warnell School of Forest Resources. Clutter, who worked in the forest industry for many years as a financial analyst, joined the UGA faculty last year as Hargreaves Distinguished Professor of Forest Finance.

New corporate tax laws favor tax-exempt entities, such as timberland investment organizations and real estate investment trusts, not the "large C" corporations that have historically held industrial timberland. Clutter said the changes have forced many C-corps, which include most of the large, publicly owned forest products companies, to question long-held beliefs that they need

to own land as a kind of insurance policy to ensure an affordable source of raw materials for their manufacturing facilities.

"Most mills, particularly in the South, get only



about 15 to 25 percent of their raw materials from internal sources," said Clutter. "The traditional view of a vertically integrated forest products company is being replaced in many instances by a recognition that timberland has its own risk and return characteristics."

Regardless of management philosophy, most forest products companies now recognize the importance of timberland as a



Mike Clutter (left) is Hargreaves Professor of forest finance.

separate investment class. Clutter's study shows that in the forest product company mergers and takeovers, more than 70 percent of the deals reduced taxes for the acquiring companies, which increased profits for their investors.

"Moving timberlands into a tax-efficient structure can add significantly to the profitability of the timberland base," said Clutter, "but it also raises a number of societal questions about who will own U.S. timberland in the future."

Clutter says chances are good that it won't be the C-corps that have historically owned and managed their own company lands, but pension fund investors, university endowments and other tax-advantaged entities. Even private, non-industrial private landowners will be affected, especially those

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Fall Colloquium 2001

SHANE MAHONEY:

“We must learn to live in the natural world”

Humans' most pressing problem is learning how to live in the natural world, according to Shane Mahoney, executive director of science, wildlife and protected areas for the Department of Tourism, Culture and Trade in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Mahoney, speaking in a commanding Irish brogue without the help of notes, delivered the Warnell School of Forest Resources' Fall Colloquium here in October.

“Every other single debate will eventually perish on the altar of insignificance if we do not come to understand our role in the natural world,” said Mahoney. “It doesn't matter how powerful, how wealthy, how youthful or how wise we are unless we have brought into practice systems and policies that protect the wondrous and fragile intricacies of nature that have allowed us to exist and essentially permitted us all that we have.”

Mahoney urged people to look beneath the surface and to question and seek a “unity of knowledge” in these debates, which he characterized as “the most fundamental facing mankind.” Central to this issue, he said, is deciding whether or not to use nature--a fundamental difference between conservation and preservation. While he calls for tolerance and mutual respect between opposing groups and opinions, he clearly makes a case for conservation.

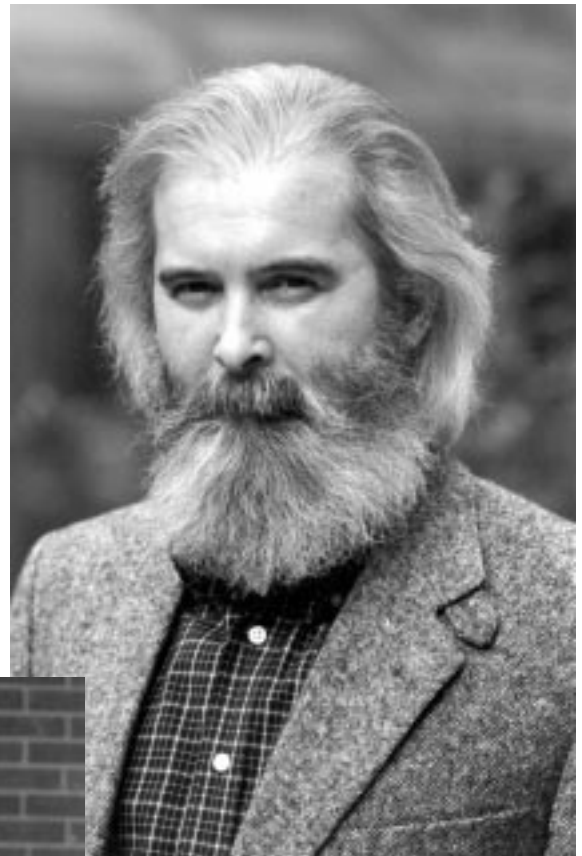
“When we say no logging, no

sealing, no fishing, then what about human beings?” Mahoney asked. “Have they no place in the scheme of biodiversity? Have we no place in the ethic that preserves the natural world and all of its



traditions? Is it appropriate that we would give homage and place emphasis on a tiny population of lizards in Costa Rica, but not be concerned for the people who have developed cultures around wildlife and landscape utilization?”

Mahoney reminded his audience about the slaughter of wildlife across North America in the 18th and 19th



centuries--and of the surprising success of fledgling conservation programs set up to restore their numbers.

“People said, ‘We are not about to lose this natural abundance that we have here, and we are going to set up a program of conservation to protect it,’ and not because they had all the pieces they needed, but because they had a vision and the passion to decide that there was no alternative but to do what had to be done,” he said.

He urged students to read widely, study beyond their course work and educate themselves about history, philosophy, poetry and political science. He also encouraged them to read about conservation and those who influenced its policies.

“If you do not know the names Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and George Bird Grinnell, then you cannot ever call yourself a conservationist or a preservationist or an

environmentalist,” said Mahoney. “If you do not take the time to read what these men did, you will never understand what it means to decide that you will make a difference.”

He also lauded the contributions of Aldo Leopold, whose writings influenced generations.

Mahoney said Leopold launched the wildlife profession in this country and then sent it around the world. “And he begged us to develop an ethic that he called the land ethic. And he asked us to see the land as a living thing and to make sure all members of society were educated about the issues of conservation.”

Mahoney linked humans’ longing and appreciation for nature--as well as deep-seated fears--to our evolutionary and cultural past. He said our past is the key to understanding who we are today.

“Nature matters to us because up until 10,000 years ago, we lived within it,” he said. “We feared for our lives, and we followed animals in a hunting and gathering lifestyle. And almost everything we retained, that we see as beautiful and meaningful and as giving us peace, is centered in the distant past. We must understand the foundation of human behavior and value systems that sprang from nature if we are to develop programs that effectively conserve nature.”

Mahoney ended by saying that while there is no silver bullet for conservation, the way forward “is illuminated by knowledge.” He called on people in the audience to revere not politicians, movie stars and CEOs, but “those who have taken the time to learn and understand and who place wisdom above everything else, just as native communities and Aboriginal communities everywhere, natural communities of human beings, have always done.” ▲



Hogan is new recruitment and placement coordinator

Allison Hogan (BSFR 2001), joined the staff as Program Coordinator for undergraduate recruitment and placement in September, 2001. She grew up in Dacula, Georgia and earned an associate degree in biology at Gainesville College before coming to UGA to complete a BSFR in soil and water resources in the WSFR. Contact her at: ahogan@smokey.forestry.uga.edu or (706-542-1465)

UNDERGRAD NEWS



Rashida Stanley (left) and **Vicki Yeh** (right) received travel grants to attend the 55th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Minorities in Natural Resources Committee meeting in Louisville, Kentucky last October.



Leslie Dutcher, David Elliott, Meredith Greene and Alan Wilson were nominated for membership to the Blue Key Honor Society.

...Timberland continued from page 11

who inherit land, because many choose to sell it rather than manage it as timberland.

“I think we will see many of the large timberland consulting firms continue to grow as they manage more acres for timberland investment management organizations,” said Clutter. “This will certainly have an impact on future foresters, many of whom will go to work for these firms rather than traditional forest products companies. There has always been a connection between traditional forest products companies and the timberland they managed. But the new tax structures mean we’ll see more and more land owned by those most removed from it.” ▲

PARKER NAMED 2001 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

J. Reid Parker, associate professor emeritus, counselor and good will ambassador at the University of Georgia for 32 years, has been named the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus in UGA's Warnell School of Forest Resources. The award, the School's highest honor, recognizes outstanding service to the School, the University and the forest resources profession.

For more than three decades, Parker taught general forestry, forest economics and forest calculations to hundreds of forestry students each year. He also coordinated the School's undergraduate advisement, recruitment, internship and career placement programs.

"He had a knack for matching just the right student with the right company," said a former colleague, "because he knew everyone so well. You could always hang your hat on what Reid told you."

Parker earned a bachelor of science in forestry from UGA in 1950

and a master's degree in forestry from Duke University in 1952. After working at Clemson and Iowa State Universities as an economics instructor for a few years, Parker returned to UGA in 1954 as an instructor. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1954 and to associate professor in 1971.

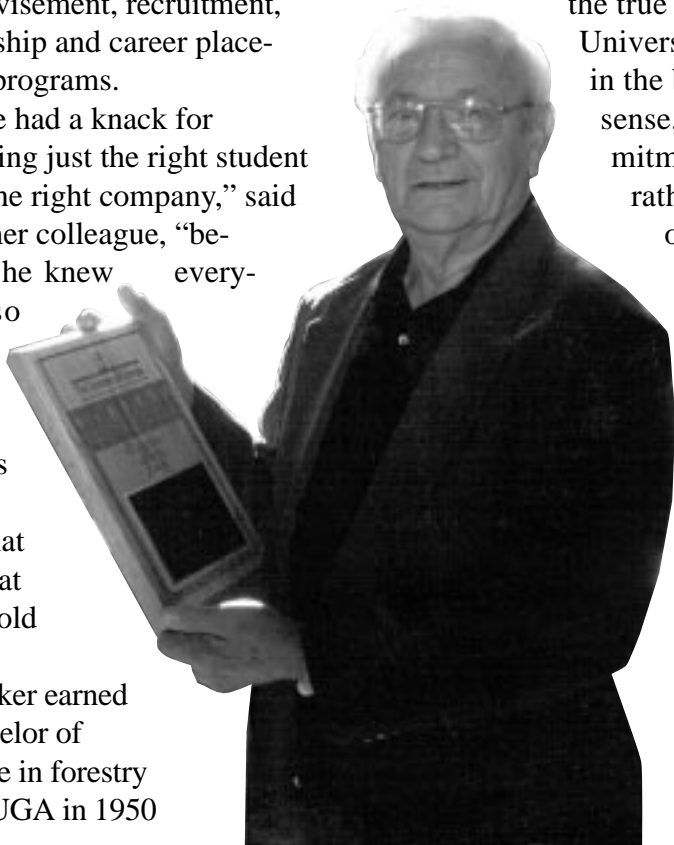
"Many of our alumni have told me what a real difference Reid Parker made, both in their professional and personal lives," said Arnett C. Mace, Jr., dean of the Warnell School of Forest Resources. "At a time when

many have forgotten that the true purpose of a University is teaching in the broadest sense, when commitment to "me" rather than to others has become prevalent, and when the people of this nation, following the horrendous act of September 11th have collectively realized that our greatest asset is our

people, it is a real privilege to honor someone who understands that helping others is the highest form of service."

Parker was an active member of the Society of American Foresters, where he served as chair of the Georgia Chapter's Executive, Hall of Fame and Scholarship Committees. He also served SAF's Southeastern Section on the Nominations and Technical Committees. At Georgia, he was inducted into the Gridiron Secret Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Zeta, AGHON and Farm House.

Parker and his wife, Cynthia, live in Athens, Ga. ▲



ALUMNI INFORMATION:



Mary McCormack, director
Alumni Relations & Development
 Warnell School of Forest Resources
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Tom Thornton:

Champion of Thompson Mills Forest and State Arboretum of Georgia

Since his mid-twenties, Tom Thornton has carefully recorded the events of his daily life in a journal. He hasn't missed a day in 53 years, including the time he had surgery and got a cousin to do it for him.

In those five decades he taught history and geography, traveled the lower 48 and Alaska and photographed county courthouses in 28 states. In 1980, after decades of managing the forests and timber on his family's extensive lands, Thornton donated land for the State Arboretum of Georgia near Braselton.

"It's been a long time coming, but I'm really ready to see this arboretum come into its own," he said. "I want to see it turn into a real educational center that people can enjoy for generations to come."

Thornton's mother, Eva, loved plants and trees, and it was her influence, along with the vision of professor emeritus Claud Brown, that motivated him in 1980 to donate the initial parcel of 150 acres for an arboretum. Three years later, he donated another 165 acres and in the late 1990s another 13 acres suitable for a building. Today the 330 acre arboretum is a living laboratory that provides educational, research and recreational opportunities to the citizens of Georgia.

Thompson Mills was an agricultural center at the turn of the century and until just recently, remained a rural farming community. Today the land's central location on I-85, touching metro Atlanta and convenient to Athens and Gainesville, makes it a perfect venue for an arboretum that serves the state's burgeoning population. It includes all of the native conifers of Georgia, 90 percent of all the state's native tree species and many exotics from around the world. Visitors can also see shrubs, wildflowers, fungi and herbaceous perennials, among them many rare and endangered varieties.

Thornton credits professor emeritus Claud Brown with the early vision for an arboretum here. In 1950, after Brown graduated with a forestry degree from UGA, he began to help the Thornton family manage their timberland.

"He showed us how to generate enough income from the timber to pay the taxes on the land," said Thornton. "As the landowner, I saw years ago the need to protect it for future generations."

Brown and forest geneticist Harry Sommer were among the



Tom Thornton donated the land for Thompson Mills Forest and State Arboretum in 1980.

photo by Helen Fosgate

first scientists in the world to tissue culture pines. They went on to culture sweetgum, black locust and several other species. Their worldwide acclaim and influence helped them to secure many exotic tree species from around the world for the arboretum.

Thornton, who made the arboretum possible with his initial gift of land, hopes to see the building of an environmental futures center, a meeting and exhibition facility similar to the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center near Savannah. He envisions a rustic but modern facility where school children, teachers, FFA, 4-Hers and garden club members can learn about Georgia's extensive forest resources.

"Basically, I'm a communicator," said Thornton. "I like to talk, write, take pictures and tell a story. I've spent a lot of time and money on my autobiography, but the arboretum is probably what I'll be remembered for. And that's not such a bad thing." ▲

To join the Friends of the Arboretum, contact Mary McCormack.

Gulf Lumber, A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Helen Fosgate

In 1952, after seven years spent sawmilling and logging on the Apalachicola River, Billy Stimpson and his two brothers went to work for Gulf Lumber, a small company in Mobile, Alabama. They agreed to a simple formula with owner, Ben May: Nobody got paid 'till the end of the year, and then they'd split the profits. Twenty years later the brothers bought the company, and today Gulf Lumber is a larger, more diversified company managed by a new generation of Stimpsons.

"The company was begun in 1940 by Mr. May, who was really a genius," says Fred Stimpson III, Billy's son and current company president. "During World War I, Mr. May had the idea to use lumber as ballast in ships. He sold the Navy on the idea and got a contract to supply the lumber. Once the ships got into port in Europe, he'd sell the lumber again. By 1917, he was a millionaire at 32."

The Stimpsons say the lumber business has always been tough, though it's obvious they've done alright. Fred is president and brother Sandy is chief financial officer. First cousin Mitch Shackleford is head of manufacturing and sales, while another cousin, Ben Stimpson, Jr., manages the wood treatment division. Fred was named *Timber Processing* magazine's Man of the Year in 2000 for his effectiveness in leading the

family business.

"We manufacture about 105 million feet of lumber a year running on one shift," says Fred, sitting at a small conference table in his office. "We export about 5 percent of our lumber to Europe and the Carribean. We import a little *radiata* for fencing from Chili, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. Most companies either specialize in high volume or high grade, but we're trying to do both, to walk that fine line. One thing is sure: Business is the toughest of our lives. Between foreign competition, regulation and overproduction here in the states, we're just trying to survive."

Fred earned a degree in business at the University of Alabama before heading to the University of Georgia to study forestry in 1972. His father, Billy, a 1941 graduate of UGA's School of Forestry told him he needed a forestry degree to succeed in this business. After looking at Auburn and Clemson, Fred decided UGA's forestry program still

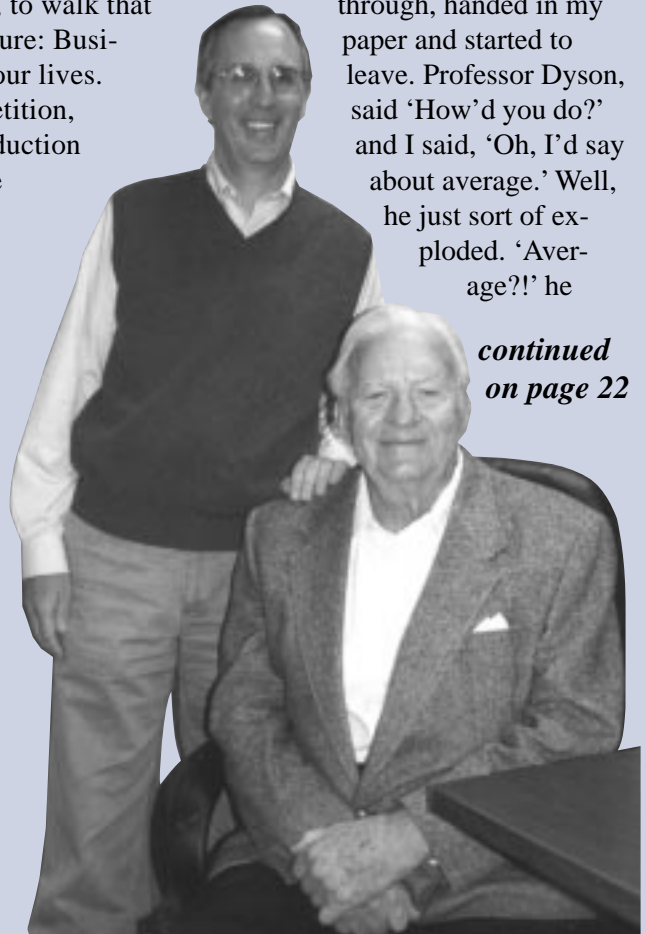
Fred (left) and Billy Stimpson in Mobile, Alabama.

couldn't be beat.

"The School had an emphasis on making a living," Fred remembers. "It wasn't any specific course necessarily, but a practical approach in all the courses -- like Archie Patterson's course about how to give a presentation, speak and conduct yourself. That has been a big help to me over the years.

"I remember the last test I took before graduating. I got through, handed in my paper and started to leave. Professor Dyson, said 'How'd you do?' and I said, 'Oh, I'd say about average.' Well, he just sort of exploded. 'Average?!' he

continued on page 22



CLASS NOTES

▶ 1930s ◀

Charles R. Franklin (BSF '39) Wirt Davis Estate, P.O. Box 210, Livingston, TX 77351 is 83 years old and still working. He has managed 60,000 acres of forestland since 1948, though he says "two good, younger foresters are doing most of the work now."

▶ 1950s ◀

James R. Hicks, Sr. (BSF '54) 3588 Washington Rd., Thomson, GA 30824-5433 is chairman of The Timbermen, Inc., Camak, GA.

R. Fleming Weaver, Jr. (BSF '56) wataugadr@aol.com is vice president of membership for the Chattahoochee Oconee Forest Interpretive Association, P.O. Box 3216, Gainesville, GA 30503. He invites all alums and friends of the outdoors to become members of this not-for-profit organization "created to enhance the public's knowledge of the forest by promoting good stewardship and conservation of our forestlands."

Lanny E. Farr (BSF '58) 5743 121 South, Blackshear, GA 31516 is retired from Gilman Paper Co., where he worked for 36 years. He still works part-time as a land and timber consultant.

▶ 1960s ◀

Bill Oettmeier, Jr. (BSF '60), president of Superior Pine Products, was recognized by the Georgia Forestry Commission for being a certified Tree Farmer for 50 years. His father, Bill Oettmeier, Sr., was Georgia's first certified tree farmer in 1948.

Fred Kinard, Jr. (BSF, wildlife '63, MS '64) was elected to a 3-year term as president of

the board of directors for the South/Eastern Wildlife Environmental Education Association, a cooperating association for the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and the Francis Marion National Forest.

Dan G. Sullivan (BSF '64) 20122 Beech Grove Rd., Glade Spring, VA 24340, dsullivan@naxs.com is owner of Feathercamp Cattle Ranch. "At 61, I'm still vertical, in good health and enjoying a quiet life."

John Olin Bridges, Jr. (BSF '65) was recently honored by the Southeastern Section, Society of American Foresters for excellence in the general practice of forestry. He works for Hercules, Inc., in Florida.

Gerald L. Stokes (BSF '65, MS '66, PhD Colorado State Univ. '82) 600 Lewis St. Fredericksburg, VA, 22401; jerrystokes@earthlink.net has retired as assistant director for protected areas, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC, where he was responsible for national policy and management issues related to the National Wilderness Preservation System. He is currently in private practice as an international consultant in natural resource planning. He is married to the former Ellen Worthy of Carrollton, GA (UGA/art education), and they have three grown children.

▶ 1970s ◀

Guerry Doolittle (BSFR '71, MS '73) was appointed vice president of marketing for the Forest Technology Group. A 30-year veteran of the forest products industry, he has worked with with several companies, including Champion International.

Richard Aiken (BSFR, wildlife '72) is

executive director and "Top Dawg" of the Humane Society of Hall County, 845 West Ridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30501.

Raymond D. Brooks (BSFR '73) 8300 Dunwoody Place, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30350-3303 is managing partner of the CPA firm Brooks, Holmes, Williams and Cook, LLC.

James E. Parker (BSFR '75) 2055 Meyers Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30045, jeparker78@aol.com is senior designer at Jordan Jones and Goulding in Norcross, GA. He lives just outside Grayson, GA with wife Karen, daughter Heidi and Golden Retriever Sierra.

William Danny Hamsley (BSFR '77, MS '79) 218 Pitts Rd., Hawkinsville, GA 31036, wdhamsley@cs.com is wood procurement manager for Weyerhaeuser Co. in Oglethorpe, GA.

John Schellman (BSFR '78) 3134 Embury Hills Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341-5403 johnschellman@jedwards.com is director of solution engineering with J.D. Edwards Co. in Atlanta, which provides e-commerce solutions for forests products companies.

▶ 1980s ◀

Van Noy Weir, III (BSFR '81) 312 North St., Crawford, GA 30630, van.wier@rayonier.com is operations manager for Rayonier, Baxley, GA. He is responsible for buying, budgeting and activity planning for Georgia. He is completing an MBA, and in his spare time enjoys riding motorcycles.

Steve Wattron (BSFR '82) 8215 26th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143 is chemical dispenser

with Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, IL. He provides chemical inventory for medical diagnostic tests, research and development and final products for consumers. He spends his spare time “looking for new lakes to fish and swim in, and I’m always looking for the perfect Friday night fish fry, a Wisconsin tradition.”

Hilburn O. Hillestad (PhD ‘84) is senior vice president and manager of environmental affairs at Jacoby Development, Inc., 1000 Abernathy Rd., Suite 1250, Atlanta, GA 30328.

Laura Vann Folwell (BSFR ‘84, MBA ‘88) 4407 Prestwick Dr., Oakwood GA, 30566, lfolwell@fs.fed.us is the help desk specialist for the Natural Resource Information Systems Fauna Team, USDA Forest Service, Ecosystem Management Group, Washington, DC. She travels the nation, providing support tools for terrestrial wildlife management. Laura and daughter Sara live in Oakwood, GA.

Scott Futch (BSFR ‘86, MFR ‘88) P.O. Box 3604, Auburn, AL 36830 is president of Auburn Timberlands, Inc., Auburn, AL.

Bobby Cox (BSFR ‘87) 3361 76th Ave., S.E., Jamestown, ND 58401, rrcox@daktel.com is a research wildlife biologist at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND. He finished an MS in fisheries and wildlife at Utah State University in 1993 and his PhD in wildlife and fisheries science at Louisiana State University in 1996. He has “been getting paid since 1995 to do research on ducks and geese!” He and wife Kim have three children.

Debbie Alworth Davis (BSFR ‘89) 2371 Andrew Jones Rd., Louisville, GA 30434 is a forester with International Paper Co. She lives in Louisville, GA with her husband and 3-year old son, Brent.

David Dockery (MS ‘91) 139 Redd Rd., Cleveland, GA 30528, ddockery@gainesville.org is an environmental services administrator for the City of Gainesville. He oversees water monitoring, wastewater laboratory and industrial pretreatment. He recently moved to Cleveland, GA with wife, Nancy, 3-year-old son, Jackson and 1-year-old daughter, Sarah.

Chris Gordy (BSFR ‘94) works as a procurement forester at Norbord South Carolina 564 Woodyard Rd., Kinards, SC 29355. He is married to **Julie Houser Gordy** (BSFR ‘94). In August 2001 they had their first child, Emma.

James T. Dryman, Jr. (BSFR ‘95) is a timber harvest manager with Mead Coated Board. He and wife, Betsey, had a daughter, Morgan, in August 2001.

Shan O’gorman (BSFR, fisheries ‘96) proponds@home.com owns ProPonds, a pond and lake management company that operates throughout Georgia and South Carolina. Visit the website at: www.proponds.com.

Chris Carlan (BSFR ‘96) works for Venable and Associates Land Surveyors, Jefferson, GA. He married Amy Herrington (UGA/ journalsim ‘97) in May 2001.

Ed Moody (BSFR ‘97) 107 Parkway Ave., Rolling Fork, MS 39159, mjtm@mississippi.net is a wildlife technician with the U.S. Forest Service in Rolling Fork, MS. He married Joyce Morales. They had a daughter, Taylor, in May 2001.

Kimberly Morris (BSFR ‘98) 90 Waverly Dr. J201, Frederick, MD 21702 is a park ranger with the National Parks Service, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Harpers Ferry, WV 25410.

Joe Caudell (BSFR ‘98) jcaudell@nd.edu completed his PhD in wildlife biology at the University of Utah at Logan in fall 2001. He is now assistant director, Environmental Research Center, University of Notre Dame.

John Henry Brunjes, IV (MS ‘98) 4803 36th St., Lubbock, TX 79414, jbrunjes@yahoo.com is working on a PhD at Texas Tech University.

Phillip E. Allen (BSFR ‘98, MFR ‘00) 122 Ponderosa Dr., Swainsboro, GA 30401, Phillip.Allen@rayonier.com is district technical forester with Rayonier in Midville, GA where his responsibilities include cruising timber and timber sales.

Kirk Martin (BSFR ‘98, MS 2001) 433 B South Sixth St., Griffin, GA 30224, kmartin@intse.com is an environmental scientist with Integrated Science and Engineering.

Michael John Wheeler (BSFR ‘98, MS 2000) P.O. Box 172, LaFayette, GA 30728 is a county extension agent in LaFayette, GA. He married Andrea Lee Rich of Gainesville, GA (UGA/COAES 2001) in June 2001.

Demetrius Cox (BSFR ‘99) has been promoted to Lieutenant, Junior Grade and decorated with the U.S. Navy commendation medal while serving as intelligence office for Seal Team One in San Diego, CA.

Denise Maidens (BSFR ‘98, MS ‘01) maidend@fwc.state.fl.us works at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Half Moon Field Office, 8864 CR 247, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538.

Jennifer K. Wilson (PhD ‘99) 1001 San Felipe St., Angleton, TX 77515 is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Midcoast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Angleton, TX.

IN MEMORIAM



Jack Truett May, professor emeritus of silviculture and forest soils, died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2001. He was 91.

Dr. May, a teacher and researcher at UGA for 20 years, was sensitive to environmental and social issues and was a leader in soil conservation and reforestation efforts. He believed diversity enriched institutions, and he worked to make minority and foreign students feel welcome and comfortable, both in the School and at UGA. He served as president of the Georgia Academy of Science, was inducted into the Georgia Forester's Hall of Fame and was a 50-year

member of the Society of American Foresters.

Dr. May earned a BS in forestry at Louisiana State University in 1932, an MSF at UGA in 1937 and a PhD at Michigan State University in 1957. He served as a commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II and after the war, worked with the U.S. Forest Service and at Auburn University. He came to UGA as a teacher and researcher in 1958 where he worked until his retirement in 1977. Dr. May volunteered for Meals on Wheels, was a charter member of the Human Relations Council in Athens and was an active member of the Rotary Club.

In 1986, he established the Martha Love May Scholarship in honor of his late wife. This UGA Foundation endowed scholarship is available to help women students in the School's professional and/or graduate programs.

Michael Ray Southerland (BSFR 1988) was killed by a hit and run driver while jogging on Thanksgiving Day 2001. He is survived by wife Lisa and their three children.

During his years with Champion International and International Paper Co., Mike worked in Newberry, South Carolina, Swainsboro and Valdosta, Georgia, Corinth, Mississippi and in Waynesboro and Savannah, Tennessee. He lost his position with IP in 2000 in a company merger. He was working as a procurement forester with Olive Hill Lumber Company, Olive Hill, TN at the time of his death. He had no life insurance.

Friends have set up a trust fund at the Hardin County Bank, Savannah, TN to benefit the children, Hannah, 10, Abby, 8 and Kyle, 6. Contribute through the bank by calling (731-925-9001). ▲

Tommy Brooks (BSFR '99) tommy@attbi.com is chief aid for environmental issues in the Office of the Mayor, Portland, OR. "Mainly that means river/watershed stuff, but it also means I cover energy and sustainability issues, too. I am learning tons and working on public policy issues that are bigger and more complicated than I ever imagined."

Samuel David (BSFR '99) 825 Gaines School Rd., Apt. 263 Athens, GA is purchasing manager for Engineered Products and Systems, Inc., Athens, GA. He married Ashley Wright (UGA/FACS 2001) of Macon, GA in August 2001.

David Marler (BSFR wildlife '99) is a territory manager for Pennington Seed Co. He married Brittany Raines of Savannah

(UGA '99) in June 2001.

Thomas Clay Hancock (BSFR '99, MS 2001) married Candy Tresslar of Dudley, Ga. in May 2001.



Jason A. Cooper (BSFR '00) P.O. Box 432 Oglethorpe, GA 31068, Jason.Cooper@starband.net is a field technician at Resource Solutions, Montezuma, GA.

Jason Edward Little (BSFR '00) married Susan Lynn Pate of Blackshear, GA (UGA/ Educ. 2000) in May 2001. Little is currently a graduate student.

Jamie Sara Goolsby (BSFR wildlife '01) married Arie Ponce Manangan (UGA/ COAES) in June 2001.

Jianping Shan (PhD 2001) was awarded the British Ecological Society's Southwood Prize for best paper published in the Society's journal in 2000. The paper, coauthored by WSFR faculty Larry Morris and Ron Hendrick was entitled, "The effects of management on soil and plant carbon sequestration in slash pine plantations."

Kristen George Fielding (BSFR '01) married Ashley Branch Bearden of Valdosta, GA UGA/Educ) in July 2001.

Allison Hogan (BSFR '01) ahogan@smokey.forestry.uga.edu is program coordinator for undergraduate recruitment and placement in UGA's Warnell School of Forest Resources, Athens, GA.

Craig White (PhD, wildlife ecology 2001) cwhite@IDFG.STATE.ID.US is a wildlife research biologist working with elk in the Idaho Department of Fish in Game, Lewiston, ID.



MULLIS NAMED WSFR's 2001 YOUNG ALUM

Todd L. Mullis, an analyst with the Southern Lumber Division of Weyerhaeuser Corporation, has been named the 2001 Young Alumnus by the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources Alumni Association. The award recognizes alumni younger than 35 who have made significant contributions to the School, the University and the forest resources profession.

Mullis, who graduated from Bleckley High School, earned an associate of science degree at Middle Georgia College and a bachelor's degree in forest resources at UGA in 1992. He completed a master's degree in forestry at UGA in 1994. He worked as an intern with Georgia-Pacific Corporation while a student and began his career with Willamette Industries, Inc. in South Carolina. He returned to Georgia to work with T & S Hardwoods in Milledgeville and later decided to pursue an MBA degree at UGA, which he completed in 1999. Upon

graduation, Mullis accepted a position with Weyerhaeuser as an analyst with the Capital Acquisitions Group in Seattle, WA. He later moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas in his current position with Weyerhaeuser.

"It is our pleasure to recognize Todd for his professionalism and commitment to the Warnell School," said Arnett C. Mace, Jr., dean of the Warnell School of Forest Resources. "He has excelled in all areas of his professional education and career, and we want to thank him for all he has contributed to our programs."

Todd is the son of Roy and Judy Mullis, Cochran, Georgia. ▲

... Family continued from page 18

shouted. He was all bristled up. 'You think you did about average?! Well, average is not going to make it out there, son. You better be well above average, or you're going to starve to death.' I was shocked. I didn't know what to say or how to react. I left the School with that in mind, and it was really sobering. I remember it to this day because he was right."

Gulf Lumber began as a concentration yard for rough, green lumber. After the Stimpson brothers came on in 1954, the sawmill was added so the company could turn out dimensional lumber. The wood treatment plant was another addition in 1960. The Stimpsons credit their success to staying modern, hiring loyal, hard-working employees and maintaining trusting relationships with timber buyers, landowners and customers.

Today nearly half of all Southern yellow pine is treated for use in decks, porches, steps and fencing.

The chemicals used for treatment have come under fire by the Environmental Protection Agency in recent years, and the copper chromium arsenate that preserves wood so effectively is gradually being phased out.

This is a huge issue in our industry," says Fred, shaking his head. "The substitute chemicals are more expensive and don't have the proven track record of CCA. So we've got this dilemma of higher costs in a product that may not serve our customers as well."

Both Billy and Fred have worked diligently for years to reform tax laws. Fred's main focus has been the estate tax. As current chair of the governmental affairs committee for the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturing Association, he's proud of work that will temporarily repeal the estate tax for one year in 2010.

"Our focus now is to get it repealed permanently," says Fred. "This business is so competitive

and capital-intensive, that if we don't get rid of that tax, there won't be any of us left."

Billy, 81, still comes in to the office most days and keeps up with the company's progress. This is a leisurely new role for a man who has been so active. Over the years, he has served as president of the Alabama Forestry Association, chair of the Alabama Forestry Commission, president and chair of the Southern Forest Products Association and chair of the National Forest Products Association. Sitting in his office, sipping a cup of hot coffee, he is surrounded by plaques, photos and other reminders of his success, including his sons and nephews, who work just down the hall.

"We're fortunate that we've been going for 62 years," says Billy, laughing, "and that's 52 years longer than Ben May thought it would go. But it's been a good life, a very good life, and I look forward to the next 15 years." ▲

homecoming2001



- 1) Beverly and Len Woodward, Rome, GA
- 2) Bruce Bongarten with Sam and Sharon Dolliver, Gordon, GA
- 3) Judy and David Blalock, Bainbridge, GA
- 4) Tom Norris, Richmond Hill, GA, with Gene and Susan Martin, Fayetteville, GA
- 5) Richard Ramey, Columbus, GA, Jill Leite, Athens artist
- 6) Hank Haynes, Savannah, GA

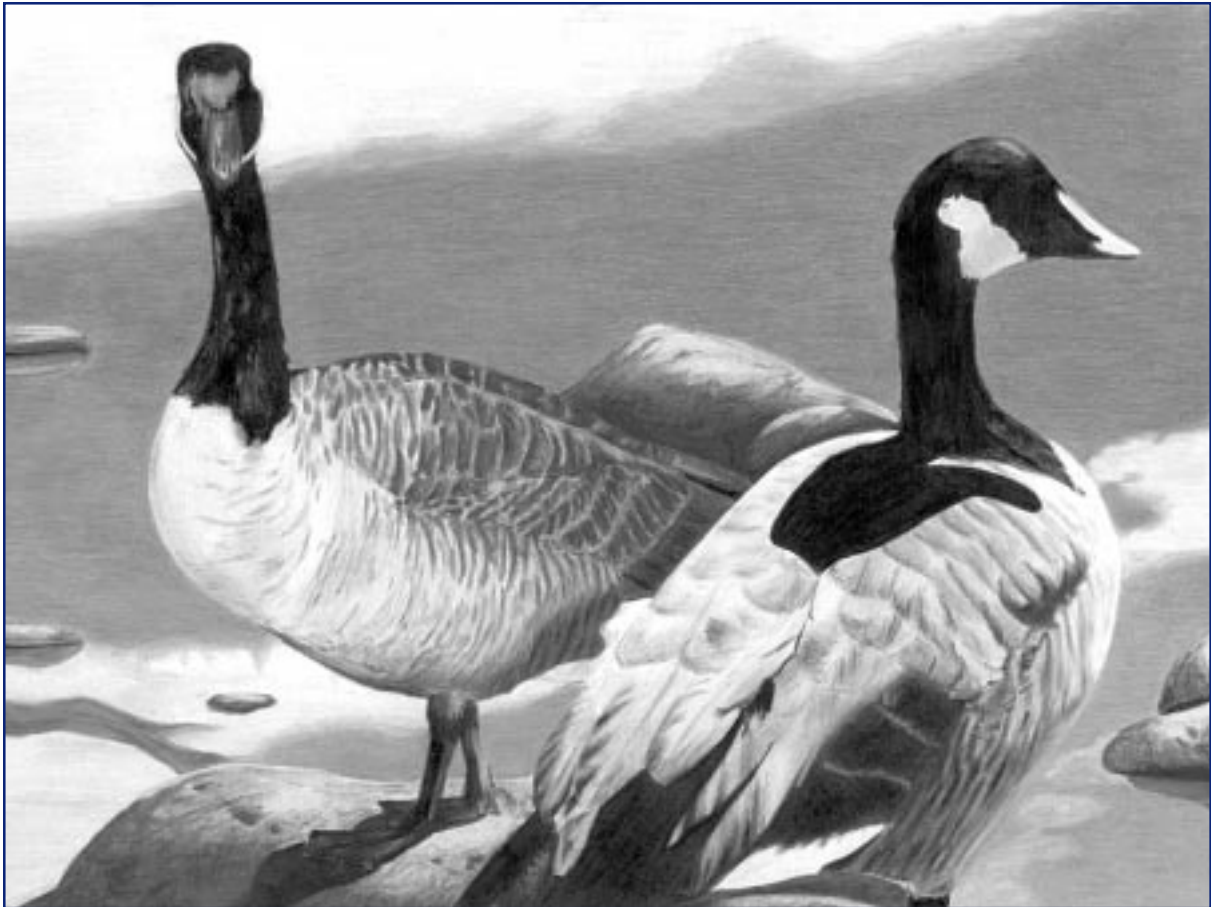


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This colored pencil drawing of a pair of Canada Geese by Candice Cline, a senior at Woodland High School in Cartersville, took top honors in the 2002 Georgia Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. Chosen from more than 750 entries, Cline's drawing will go on to compete in the National Junior Duck Contest in Washington, D.C. The contest was sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Warnell School of Forest Resources, Georgia Power, the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Blooms of Holland, Blimpie's at Beechwood, Quizno's Subs, Jaxco Industries of Augusta, Ga. and the Quality Deer Management Association.