

FALL, 1978

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

It is a great feeling to be making my final message to you - great in the fact that I had great officers who did most of the work during the past two years, and most of all, great alumni who did not let their Forestry Department nor the Alumni Association down when a project was to be done. Please continue to support the new officers as you have supported us for the past two years.

The new officers for 1979-80 are as follows:

President: James H. Sherer ('61)
Vice President: Wayne S. Strawbridge ('65)
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard H. Cumbie ('69)

Let us review briefly with you the past two years' accomplishments, and I believe you too will be quite proud of what your Association has been doing.

Your Alumni Association was active in giving Professor DeVall a super retirement event which took place during the Southeastern Section meeting, Society of American Foresters, in Birmingham, Alabama, February 1, 1978. On March 13, 1978, the Board of Trustees of Auburn University voted to name a street located in front of the Forest Products Laboratory DeVall Street. The location is in the original forestry plot section of the campus.

Your Alumni Association presented a Forestry Handbook and a \$50.00 check to Roger D. Young of Piedmont, Alabama in 1977, and to David Duff of Huntsville, Alabama in 1978, in connection with the Forestry Club's annual Awards Banquet.

The Alumni Newsletter is now being mailed to you biannually to improve communications between the Forestry Department, the students, and the Alumni Association.

Your Alumni Association contributed \$175.00 to the first edition of the Knothole which was published by the Auburn Forestry Club. Incidentally, they mailed a copy to each dues paying member of the Alumni Association.

Your Alumni Association presented watches to four retiring professors at the Auburn Forestry Department who have given much to make the program what it is today. The retiring professors were:

Professor Knox Livingston
Dr. Earl Hodgkins
Professor Henry Posey
Professor George Garin

Good luck and best wishes from the Alumni Association.

I am most impressed with the Auburn forestry students, and if you as alumni have not taken the opportunity to meet them, or visit the Auburn Forestry Department recently, please do for it is most rewarding.

An Auburn forestry alumni meeting is planned at the Southeastern Section meeting, Society of American Foresters, to be held at Cal-taway Gardens January 17-19, 1979. The meeting will be especially convenient for our alumni living in Georgia to attend and see first-hand what is happening at Auburn.

Last, but not least, I would like to personally thank Jim Buford ('57), Vice President, and Chester Billie ('69), Secretary-Treasurer, who have done an excellent job for your Association.

Finally, to the alumni, I thank you for allowing me to have this refreshing and rewarding experience of serving you. Let us remember the objective of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association: to bind Auburn foresters together professionally and socially and to support the Auburn University Department of Forestry.

Fred Harmon. ('59)
President
A.U. Forestry Alumni Association

FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Emmett Thompson

In late September, we cranked up for another academic year. Our Fall Quarter enrollment is 345 students, 328 undergraduates and 17 graduates. These numbers represent a decrease of 48 undergraduates, and an increase of 8 graduates, compared to one year ago. The decrease in undergraduate enrollment was somewhat predictable, since we have dropped the recreation option in the forest management curriculum and instituted a new forest management curriculum beginning with this year's freshmen. The new curriculum is somewhat more rigorous than previously. The undergraduate wood products enrollment continues to be small, and one of our goals is to increase this

program as we add additional faculty in the Forest Products Lab. Also, one of our objectives is to strengthen the graduate program in terms of diversity, quality, and quantity. I believe we are beginning to see some positive results in this latter area.

Employment opportunities for B.S. graduates during the past year have been about the same as last year in terms of number of positions. However, because of an increase in the number of graduates, our employment percentage has dropped. We have slightly over 70% of our 1978 graduates employed, compared to 80% one year ago. While the percentage is down, it is still significantly higher than both national and regional averages. We will continue to strive to produce the best possible B.S. graduate, and appreciate your assistance in forwarding information on employment opportunities.

In the spring Newsletter, I indicated the Department was revising the forest management curriculum and that I would discuss the new curriculum in this Newsletter. We did submit a forest management curriculum revision to the University Administration during the late spring or early summer. The curriculum has now been through all the proper channels, and is fully approved, and is implemented for freshmen. A copy of the new curriculum is on the following page. There are several major departures from our previous program. First, and most obvious to new freshmen, is an increase in mathematics and science in the freshman and sophomore years. We feel this is consistent with the need to establish a very firm basis upon which to develop the professional forestry courses in the junior and senior years. The other major change in the curriculum is the placing of Summer Camp after the freshman year, rather than after the junior year, as in the previous curriculum. Actually, a student may take Summer Camp after either the freshman or the sophomore year. However, Summer Camp is prerequisite to all the professional courses in the junior and senior years. Obviously, the new Summer Camp is introductory in nature, rather than containing some terminal courses as previously.

We are proposing one additional change in our undergraduate program. Together with the Department of Agricultural Engineering, we have proposed a jointly administered curriculum in forest engineering. This proposal is currently being considered by the University Administration, and it would be premature to announce it. However, I hope by the time of the spring Newsletter, we will have some positive action on this program and I can discuss it in considerable detail. I will say that we feel this is a positive addition to our total undergraduate offerings, and if it materializes, will place Auburn in the forefront in terms of forest engineering in the Southeast.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CURRICULUMFALL

BI 101 Prin. of Biology 5
 MH 161 An. Geom. & Cal. 5
 EH 101 English Comp. 3
 ROTC 1
 P.E. 1
15

Freshman Year

BI 102 Plant Biology 5
 MH 162 An. Geom. & Cal. 5
 EH 102 English Comp. 3
 ROTC 1
 P.E. 1
15

Summer Camp

FY 300 Intro. to For. 2
 FY 301 Dendrology 3
 FY 302 For. Biology 2
 FY 304 For. Surveying 4
 FY 305 Field Mensuration 3
 FY 306 For. Cartography 1
15

Sophomore Year

CH 103 Fund. of Chem. & Lab 5
 Economics 5
 EH 304 Tech. Writing 3
 History or Literature 3
 ROTC 1
17

PS 200 Found. of Physics 5
 ACF 211 Prin. of Account. 4
 GL 110 Phys. Geology 5
 History or Literature 3
 ROTC 1
18

Junior Year

FY 313 Sampling 1 4
 FY 320 For. Tree Physiol. 3
 MN 241 Business Law 4
 Elective 5
16

FY 314 Sampling II 4
 FY 415 For. Mensuration 5
 AY 305 Gen. Soils 5
 FY 439 Wood ID & Prod. 3
17

FY 421 For. Ecology 5
 FY 422 For. Geography 2
 FY 462 For. Rec. Plan. & Mgt. 3
 FY 517 Photogram. 5
15

Senior Year

FY 540 For. Econ. 4
 FY 520 Silviculture 5
 ZY 305 For. Entomology 3
 Elective 5
17

FY 541 For. Mgt. & Admin. 4
 FY 445 For. Fire Cont. & Use 3
 FY 570 Harvesting 3
 FY 580 For. Prob. I 0
 Elective 5
15

FY 581 For. Prob. II 4
 FY 542 For. Policy 3
 ZY 425 For. Wildlife Mgt. 3
 BY 310 For. Pathology 3
 Elective 5
18

SPRING

SC 211 Public Speaking 5
 MH 163 An. Geom. & Cal. 5
 EH 103 English Comp. 3
 ROTC 1
 P.E. 1
15

As indicated in the spring 1978 Newsletter, Professor Posey did retire at the end of June. Mr. Posey was the fourth member of the faculty to retire during the 1977-78 academic year; the others being Mr. DeVall, Dr. Hodgkins, and Mr. Livingston.

We have recently employed two new faculty members, and are currently recruiting to fill three additional vacancies. Ralph Meldahl, who is completing his doctorate in forest biometrics at the University of Wisconsin, will be joining us January 1, 1979. Ralph's primary responsibility will be in growth and yield research. However, he will be involved in teaching various courses in the mensuration area, as well as developing a graduate program in mensuration/biometrics.

Robert Tufts, also a doctoral student, but at Virginia Tech, will join the Department in March. Robert's area of specialty is timber harvesting. Along with Bobby Lanford, who joined us last year, he will give us a nucleus of personnel in this area, while most schools have no qualified personnel in harvesting. The U.S. Forest Service Engineering Research Unit located on campus currently has three forest engineers on their staff, so the total concentration of forest engineering talent at Auburn is greater than at any other location in the South. We feel this gives us an advantage in developing programs in timber harvesting research and education. We intend to capitalize upon this advantage. The forest engineering undergraduate curriculum I mentioned earlier is one approach we are taking.

We have also benefited from having Art Nelson with us during the Fall Quarter. Art is Vice President for Industry Affairs, Champion International Corporation. We were able to work out an agreement with Art and Champion for him to spend three days a week at Auburn during the Fall Quarter, teaching Forest Policy and Law. All indications, particularly student reactions, are this has been an extremely beneficial experience. One of Art's major responsibilities with Champion is to keep the Corporation's top executives apprised of current developments in forest policy. Our students, then, receive the same analyses of current forest policy issues, along with their historical causes, as do the top executives in one of our major forest products firms. We are also extremely pleased that Art has given in to our gentle persuasion, and will be back Spring Quarter to teach another section of Forest Policy and to coordinate a course in Wood Procurement which will be taught primarily by industrial personnel.

~~The positions we are currently recruiting to fill are in forest management/economics and wood science/technology. We are looking for an economist with strong training in managerial economics to~~

teach senior level courses in forest management, as well as develop a graduate program and conduct research in the area. In wood science and technology, we are recruiting for two new positions in the Forest Products Laboratory. One, or possibly both of the positions, will be in wood chemistry. The second position, if not in wood chemistry, will be in some aspect of composite products. Hopefully, by the time of the spring Newsletter, we will be able to report success in filling these vacancies.

The remainder of the Newsletter is devoted to news from individual members of the faculty.

Evangelos J. Biblis

Research continues in the new Forest Products Laboratory. We continue to work with properties of southern pine plywood specifically with compression and rolling shear strength and stiffness in both the dry and wet condition of plywood. We are also initiating a new project that concerns the development and properties of, (a) composite plywood (utilizing unidirectionally oriented thin particleboard as cores with southern pine faces and possibly red oak backs), and (b) flakeboard from mixtures of southern pine and sweetgum. Finally, we will be also working with another new project concerning "Evaluation of floor, wall, and ceiling systems in housing for maximum energy conservation". The latest project is financed by a \$35,000 grant from the University's effort in Energy Research.

Conrad Brewer

I had the opportunity to travel around the State a little this past summer with Earl DeBrunner and some of the students in Summer Camp. This was enjoyable and gave me a chance to meet many of you.

Since the Fall Quarter started I have been really busy. I am enjoying teaching silviculture and have instituted a practical exercise in some of the labs that the students have reacted to in somewhat different ways (depending on their grades). The exercise involves timber marking practice for thinnings, improvement cuts and reproduction cuts. These cut-and-leave tests give the students practical experience in a competitive but enjoyable way.

Our new curriculum is being instituted but not without problems. The students and advisors together are finding that registration is still a hassle. Once all of the students on the old curriculum have graduated we should have a much easier time of it.

Earl DeBrunner

Summer Camp with 80 some students tended to keep a number of the faculty busy, including the "tour director". We took in many of the old places and added several new stops, but each of the Summer Camp students got a little taste of the old camp at Little River.

This fall I took in the SAF meeting in St. Louis, where I got to see and talk to a number of our graduates and some former staff people too. Among the latter group were Bob Gilmore, Lamar Teate, Dick Meier, and Keith Lynch.

Wilbur DeVall

Alumni and friends of the Department of Forestry at Auburn may be interested in forestry events that preceded them or that took place following departure from the campus. My efforts to record some of the action will be found in two publications released since the spring of 1978.

Bulletin 501 of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station reviews thirty years of research on Experiment Forests in Coosa, Barbour, and Autauga counties that have been under the administration of the Department since about 1942. This is more of a historical document than it is a source of current information on the practice of forestry. It is documented with data from early experiments, pictures of forest conditions in the early '40's in these counties, and published information related to the soils and resources in these counties back to the pre-1930 era. I chose to give it the simple title, "A 30 Year History of Research on Auburn University's Experiment Forests".

The April, May and June issues of ALABAMA FORESTS published by the Alabama Forestry Association carried one article each, descriptive of the Administrative, Teaching, and Research accomplishments in forestry at Auburn, respectively. Only the "firsts" in forestry during the first 50 years of forestry at the Land Grant College are recorded. Pictures reveal how friends, alumni, and guests of the Department of Forestry looked "years ago". The Department saw fit to reprint these articles under the title "Auburn's Forestry Program - its first half century 1927-1977". Copies were mailed to those on the mailing list of the Department, individuals on a list I prepared, persons involved in programs described in the articles, and relatives of deceased persons named in the articles or who appeared in the pictures used. Additional copies of the reprint may be obtained from the Department of Forestry.

When one retires he is free to set his own schedule, do his own thing, but most important of all, keep busy. I haven't run out of things to do since retirement February 1 of this year, but neither have I considered what I'm doing as work. Two years ago I decided that upon retirement I wanted to do something no one else had ever done. This, I believe I have accomplished with the formation of PROXY SERVICES, LTD. My mailer and business card suggest that when you are too busy to attend meetings, you should call me and let me be your proxy. I will go anywhere in the world (passport valid until 1980) to represent a client. I will vote as instructed, argue for or against issues using your documentation, record speeches and send you a cassette, take pictures of special events and provide prints, take notes on or minutes of meetings, bring you copies of programs, press releases, and handouts, just as though you had attended yourself. Yes, I've had a client or two but the idea is a bit too new to catch on like wild fire. One can't earn too much or the good old retirement benefits have to be forfeited. Come see me in Room 106 when you are on campus.

Stuart Duba

Since joining the Department of Forestry last November, I have spent considerable time becoming familiar with the extensive tree breeding program. Over the summer, I attended two regional project technical committee meetings, one dealing with the breeding of southern pines and the other with the production and marketing of Christmas trees. In cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Commission, I have graded 28 trees for the possible inclusion in the improvement program as superior trees. We also have a problem with not being able to successfully graft some of these parent trees into seed orchards, so I am using a twig rooting technique to try and alleviate the problem with trees that are incompatible in grafting. The technique shows promise for commercial use. We are preparing for a lot of data collecting when tree growth is concluded for this year.

Dean H. Gjerstad

In last year's Newsletter I indicated development of a cooperative in chemical vegetation control. We have been quite successful in this venture. The Auburn University Forestry Chemicals Cooperative membership currently includes 12 forest industries, the U.S. Forest Service State and Private, the U.S. Forest Service Southern Experiment Station, and 5 chemical companies. Major research areas include silvicultural herbicide uses for site preparation and stand release and developing nursery weed control techniques. A major objective of the Cooperative is to register herbicides for forestry uses.

For several years our major research effort has been a regional nursery weed control project. This research has been used to obtain national and state registrations for several herbicides. These herbicides are now providing forest nurserymen with legal, effective and low cost weed control alternatives.

Using a similar approach, the new project has been expanded to include silvicultural uses of herbicides. Larry Nelson, previously a weed scientist with Weyerhaeuser Company, has joined our staff to aid in this research. Our objective is to provide forest managers with cost effective herbicides to reduce competition and increase wood production.

Glenn Glover

One area of research which has not been stressed at Auburn in the past is growth and yield. I have spent the past several months initiating a research program in this area. One project, just approved, involves volume and weight predictions of all above-ground tree components in relation to the Forest Survey Inventories. This should allow for broader application of past and future Forest Surveys. There is a great deal of work needed in both pine and hardwood growth and yield in Alabama. I am now evaluating needs and looking for opportunities for future research.

James F. Goggans

During the past year I have cooperated in the establishment of the Alabama Christmas Tree Growers Association. This group is now the focal point of a growing industry in the State. Since Virginia pine is the best tree that we have for Christmas tree production in Alabama, we have established 17-source Virginia pine seed-source studies in three regions of the State. Our cooperative tree improvement program with the Alabama Forestry Commission is progressing. This year the Commission will sell for the first time very limited quantities of slash and loblolly seedlings that will be "Certified non-tested seed orchard" seedlings. Results of our Alabama loblolly pine seed source study after 14 years in the field will be published soon.

E. W. Johnson

On September 1, 1978, I went from the teacher-research category to the straight teacher category. The project through which photo-interpretation keys for the forest cover in the state were

being developed was terminated and not renewed. Consequently, I have spent the bulk of my non-teaching time trying to clean up the loose ends of that research. The final two keys are in manuscript form and hopefully will be in the hands of the printers by the end of the year. Don Janes and I are informally looking into the subject of slop-over in point-sampling. We feel that we will have something to say about that subject in the near future.

Sam Lytle

I taught my first undergraduate class in many years during the spring quarter. It wasn't too bad for me, but I'm not going to ask the students how they feel about it. They accused me of almost running the bus off a narrow wooden bridge. However, I'm sure that at least half the tires were still on the bridge at the time. I'm looking for some grant money to do more surface mine reclamation research, and have some proposals out to granting agencies at the moment. One organization wants us to investigate the use of sewage sludge on surface mines. I'll consider it as soon as I find out whether the sewage is raw or digested.

Richard Martin

By assisting Jim Frazier in Forest Engineering I got my first taste of forestry Summer Camp at Auburn. Hot and a lot of work (mostly for the students) but a lot of fun too.

Over the last few months I have inventoried the three outlying units controlled by the Department. These units contain about 680 acres and were acquired in the early 1940's. Most of the work done on the areas was experimental in nature but these units are now in excellent shape and will shortly be brought under management aimed toward providing a steady harvest as well as a place for research.

Art Nelson

I have the pleasure of being visiting Professor in forest Policy and Law at Auburn for the fall quarter. As a semi-retired Vice-President in the Timberlands Division of Champion International Corporation, I am attempting to bring to this course a history of how forest policy in this country developed and a review of the forest policy issues which face professional foresters today. Particular emphasis is being placed on the development of the Environmental movement and the manner in which the recently passed environmental laws impact on the practice of forestry on both public and private

lands. Some issues such as the RARE 11 exercise and the regulations for the National Forest Management Act of 1976 will still be in the Process of Solution as our graduates begin their professional careers. A first hand knowledge of these issues should enhance their stature as they begin their search for employment.

H. G. Posey

"Sprise, Sprise," to quote Gomer Pyle! The university tearfully bade me adieu on July 1. However, Emmett graciously offered me office space. I left "Club 227", previously known as "The Flop House", and am now in "Delphi", Room 203. The faculty, old and new, are overjoyed! The prospect of existence without my snarles, terrified them!

On August 17 at a lavish banquet in Montgomery, you presented a watch to each of the four most recent faculty discards! One of them, the watches, features is the visible passing of each second. I spend some time in "Delphi" viewing mine and mentally counting, "one less, two less, etc.!!" Seriously, I do thank you.

A recent graduate semi-seriously asked if the "Establishment" was going to name anything after me. I said, "Sure; there is a committee trying to decide which of the men's restrooms to so honor!!" And that's that!

I made an appeal in last year's Newsletter for "Chris" stories. I received none! Previously, I had received but 17! Were you just "woofing" the many times you told me how much he meant to you? Pass it on! This is the "last asking"!

Go, with God!

R. C. Tang

I joined the Forestry faculty group at Auburn University on March 1, 1978. Formerly with the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky where I have taught courses and conducted research in wood science and technology for the last ten years. During that period my research attention was on the areas such as composite transmission poles, fiber quality of fast growing hardwoods, noise control in woodworking machines, mechanics of composite materials, computer simulation of tree growth model, and lumber drying stress analysis. From 1959 to 1963, I worked as a staff Forester in the Taiwan Forest Bureau on forest management and silviculture. In 1968, I received my Ph.D. degree from North Carolina State University in Wood Science.

The newly established Forest Products Research Laboratory at Auburn University has provided me excellent facility and environment to conduct research in forest products and utilization. My research interests will be in the areas of utilization of low-grade hardwoods, design of composite structural elements for construction, and application of solar energy in lumber drying. Besides, this, I am teaching an undergraduate course in Forest Products this Fall quarter.

It is a pleasure to be a member of the Auburn forest group, considered to be one of the leading forest programs in the South. If I can provide you any technical assistance, please contact me.