

April 1978

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your President and your Association have been busy this year, and it gives me great pleasure to report to you our 1977-78 activities. Chester Billie ('69), Secretary-Treasurer, and Jim Buford ('57), our Vice-President, have really been instrumental in creating a super year.

The Auburn Forestry Alumni Association held its annual meeting during the annual convention of the Alabama Chapter, SAF, on August 26, 1977 in Mobile. Approximately 35 members were present. Several student representatives were present, and many of the Auburn professors were present, which we are happy to see. Your President gave each of the 1974-76 officers a very nice gift in appreciation for their service. The officers were: Charles Pigg ('55), President, Eddie Gibson ('53), Vice-President, and Billy McIntyre ('64), Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Thompson brought the group up to date as to where the Auburn Forestry Department was going and several questions were asked from the floor. Professor DeVall gave an updating on the Alumni Association affairs.

The 1978 annual Auburn Forestry Alumni Association meeting is planned for August during the Alabama Chapter, SAF meeting, to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. All of you Alumni members please come out and see and hear for yourselves what is happening at Auburn.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Auburn Forestry Alumni and others who assisted in giving Professor DeVall a super retirement event which occurred in Birmingham during the Southeastern section meeting of the SAF, February 1, 1978. I would especially like to express the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association's appreciation to Dean Rouse who came to Birmingham for this event, representing the Academic field, and presented Professor DeVall with an emeritus certificate; to Hilton Watson, representing the Forest Industry in Alabama, who presented DeVall with a \$2,000 check; and to Charles Pigg, representing the Auburn Alumni Association, who presented DeVall with a \$1,900 check. This was climaxed by a standing ovation for Professor DeVall when he finally had the opportunity to say a few words. This was truly an event Professor DeVall and the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association will always remember.

Eddie Gibson ('53) will serve as Chairman of a committee to organize a 25-year reunion for the class of 1952, 1953 and 1954. If you are a member of these classes and would like to be associated with this effort, please contact Eddie at P.O. Box 315, Butler, Alabama 36904. I am sure Eddie will be calling on some of

you. I am looking forward to attending this meeting and seeing some of the "old foresters" (I hope this will help attendance).

Your Alumni President presented the outstanding senior award to David S. Duff of Huntsville, Alabama at the annual Awards Banquet held in Auburn February 22, 1978. Mr. Duff received a Forestry Handbook and a check for \$50 from the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association. Your Alumni Association also donated \$175 to the Auburn Forestry Club. The financial support is for assisting the Forestry Club in publishing a yearbook for the first time since 1961. The purpose of the yearbook is to let people know what Forestry at Auburn is all about. The book will consist of 32 pages and will be entertaining as well as informative. Copies of the yearbook will be sent to each alumnus, student, faculty, advertisers, etc. The Auburn Forestry Alumni Association is proud to assist in another first for the Forestry Club at Auburn.

Dr. Thompson has requested and your Alumni Association has agreed that we will cooperate with the Auburn Forestry Department in mailing out two alumni newsletters to improve communications between the Forestry School and the alumni. One newsletter will be mailed in the early spring, the other in the fall. Your Vice-President, Jim Buford ('60), is doing an excellent job in working with the Auburn Forestry Department in making these projects materialize.

Chester Billie, Jr. ('69), Secretary-Treasurer, mailed dues notices to the membership in late March, 1978. Please continue your financial, physical and vocal support of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association. To pay your 1978 dues, simply send \$5.00 directly to Chester E. Billie, Jr., Route 3, Box 998, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507.

Fred Harmon ('59)  
President  
Auburn Forestry Alumni Association

#### FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Emmett Thompson, Department Head

This issue of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Newsletter begins a new format. It is less elaborate than past issues, but we think there are some definite advantages. Even though pictures are not included, there are no space limitations. This will allow us to

bring you more information about the developments and happenings regarding individual members of the Department, as well as more space for alumni news and reports on student activities. We also anticipate we will now be able to have an Alumni Newsletter twice a year. We would appreciate your reaction to this change in format.

I would like to use the space allocated to me to review developments in the Department during the past year. Perhaps the most significant single development is the completion of the new Forest Products Research Laboratory which was formally dedicated on June 15, 1977. This facility gives us an opportunity, and the responsibility, to develop forest products teaching and research programs comparable with any in the country. The first step in developing a quality program is, of course, securing and maintaining high quality faculty. Upon completion of the Laboratory we allocated three faculty vacancies to wood science and technology. I am pleased one of these has been filled. Dr. R. C. Tang, formerly at the University of Kentucky, joined the Department March 1, as Professor of Wood Science and Technology. Dr. Tang will be instrumental in helping identify the talents needed for the other two positions. Hopefully, we can have these positions filled before the end of the current Fiscal Year.

Our accomplishments do center around new faculty. In addition to Dr. Tang, we have added five faculty members in the past few months.

Dr. Warren Flick joined us last July, as Associate Professor of Forest Economics. Dr. Flick comes from the University of Wisconsin. He also has previous experience at Virginia Tech and with the Bureau of Land Management. Warren is teaching the senior course in forest economics, as well as directing two graduate students. He has also initiated a research project involved with the Contributions of Forestry to Alabama's Economy. This project is partially funded by the Alabama Forestry Association and we are looking forward to its completion next year.

Stuart Duba joined the Department in November, 1977, as a Research Associate in Forest Genetics. Stuart holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky, and will pursue a doctorate in genetics while assisting Floyd Goggans in the tree improvement research program.

Richard Martin joined us January 1, as Manager of Forest Properties. Dick was previously with the State of Missouri; his B.S. and M.S. degrees are from the University of Tennessee. Dick will manage the forest lands under the direct control of the

Department of Forestry, and also be available to provide professional advice for the management of the other forest properties owned by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. Dick will also provide support as needed for the Department's teaching program, particularly in Summer Camp.

Dr. Conrad Brewer joined the Department in January as Assistant Professor of Silviculture. Dr. Brewer was a member of the faculty at Clemson University. Previously, he was with Louisiana State University and Westvaco's Research Division. Dr. Brewer will be teaching silviculture, as well as initiating research in silvicultural practices. Dr. Brewer will also assist in coordinating the Department's undergraduate teaching program.

Dr. Bobby Lanford is the Department's most recent faculty recruit, joining us on January 23, 1978. Prior to coming to Auburn, Bobby was Group Leader for Weyerhaeuser's harvesting research in the South. He has previous experience with International Paper Company and the APA Harvesting Research Project.

As many of you know, there will be four retirements in the Department this year. The first was Professor Knox Livingston, who retired on December 31, 1977. Knox continues to reside in Auburn and we see him frequently around the office and at social events.

The second retirement was Professor DeVall, on January 31, 1978. Wilbur maintains his office and I am sure will contribute in a number of ways to the Department's future growth. He is, of course, continuing as Chairman of the State Board of Registration for Foresters and remaining active in many other ways.

Dr. Earl Hodgkins, Professor of Forest Ecology, retired February 28, 1978. Earl is moving from Auburn to live in Fairhope, Alabama, primarily so he can pursue his love for sailing. We do expect to continue to feel Earl's presence around Alabama and in Auburn.

Henry Posey will retire at the end of the current academic year. For a number of years, Henry has coordinated the Department's undergraduate teaching program. In this capacity, he has probably become better acquainted with students on an individual basis than any other member of the staff. We will miss Henry, but anticipate he will maintain contact with the Department and his former students.

The Department's enrollment for the current year is virtually the same as a year ago, 375 in the fall quarter. This is a reversal of a trend which has seen large increases in each of the several preceding years. The leveling off of undergraduate enrollment is not unwelcome. Our teaching faculty and facilities are overtaxed, and the job market for foresters is such that we cannot guarantee all of our graduates will have professional employment opportunities; although, most of them have been doing very well.

We would actually welcome a redistribution of our enrollment. The Department has undergraduate curricula in forest management and wood technology. The wood technology program has always been small. Now, with the completion of the Forest Products Research Laboratory and the addition of faculty in wood science and technology, one of our goals is to increase enrollment in this area to the point it is a viable educational program. This means at least 50 undergraduate majors. We are also interested in making significant increases in our graduate enrollment. Employment opportunities for persons with masters and doctoral degrees are significantly better than for B.S. recipients.

With respect to our undergraduate education program, we are in the process of revising the forest management curriculum. An internal faculty committee and representatives from the Department's Advisory Committee are working on the revision. Hopefully, by the time of the next Newsletter, we will be able to outline the new curriculum for you. Evert Johnson is chairman of our Departmental Curriculum Committee. I am sure he would welcome any comments you may have with respect to your undergraduate education and recommendations for curriculum modification.

We have planned what I consider an innovative modification in our curriculum for Spring Quarter. We will be offering a two-credit course in wood procurement, taught entirely by representatives of forest industry. In developing this course, we are working with a Committee of the Alabama Forestry Association, chaired by Bill Chestnutt of Union Camp Corporation. The Committee has identified the relevant topics to be covered in a ten-week, one afternoon per week, course in wood procurement. The Committee has also recommended personnel from forest industry as appropriate instructors. We have met with both the Committee and potential instructors to discuss course objectives, class outlines, grading procedures, etc. We will not know exactly how this venture turns out until the quarter is over, but I am quite optimistic. By getting all the instructors together prior to the course, we will have a structured educational experience which will hopefully achieve specified objectives.

Now, I have asked members of the faculty to provide a paragraph or so describing their recent activities and interests.

#### Harold Beals

The 27-year-old fence post study was terminated this year and evaluated as to the effectiveness of cold soaking of fence posts in preservative materials.

A new project concerning mold control on CCA (chromated copper arsenate) salt treated lumber was initiated. This project involves the appraisal of the addition of pentachlorophenol to the CCA formulation to reduce or eliminate certain fungus infestations.

#### Evangelos Biblis

Wood utilization and Forest Product Research continues in the new laboratory. A project concerning utilization of southern yellow pine logging residue was completed. The results indicate that tops and branches 2- to 4-inch base diameter can be used to make commercially acceptable particleboard when one-half of total needles are removed. Inclusion of all attached needles in boards significantly reduced all strength and stiffness properties. Additional experimental results indicate that experimental particleboard made from 16-year old loblolly pine rootwood and above-ground stumpwood meet commercial standards for particleboard of underlayment quality. Future research studies will concern utilization of low grade hardwoods for structural panel products.

#### Conrad Brewer

I joined the Forestry Faculty at Auburn about the middle of January, moving here from Clemson University where I worked as a reforestation specialist on a joint extension-research appointment. Research projects included evaluating natural regeneration of hardwoods after clearcutting and testing of herbicides. From 1970 to 1975 I was on the staff at LSU where I taught, conducted research and worked on a doctorate. Back in the sixties I worked as a research forester with Westvaco in South Carolina.

I plan to conduct research in site preparation and reforestation techniques here at Auburn and will be teaching the silvicultural course beginning next fall. Also I will be working closely with the students to assist them in finding summer jobs.

Terry Davis

A host range of Endothia gyrosa consisting of eleven tree species has been established. This fungus is common upon pin oak in Alabama where it causes dieback and cankers on lower limbs. It also occurs commonly on water oak but apparently does not cause much damage. Studies concerning modes and points of infection indicate entrance into pruning stubs and some other injuries. Benomyl and Bordeaux mixture in concentrations of 5 ppm prevent spore germination and these two fungicides incorporated into grafting wax prevent invasion of E. gyrosa into the wood.

Other duties include trouble-shooting roles in our tree genetics projects, tree pathology problems, and in wood deterioration.

Warren Flick

I have been working with two graduate students on teaching and research projects. Our study on the contribution of forestry to Alabama is progressing, and we are planning a preliminary description to be published early in the summer. Data from the input-output model will come later. In our teaching program, we are emphasizing investment analysis of timber growing and the importance of taxes in forestry.

Jim Frazier

I received a B.S. in Forestry from Auburn in March, 1973 and after a short tour with the Army returned in the position of adjunct instructor. Teaching duties include forest cartography and forest engineering (in summer camp) as well as summer camp assistant for several years. I hope to complete work on the Master's degree in June and leave for Virginia Tech in September to study for a Ph.D.

Dean Gjerstad

A new cooperative entitled The Auburn University Forestry Chemicals Cooperative was developed during 1977. Membership currently includes 11 forest industries and the U. S. Forest Service, Southeastern Area State and Private. A major goal of the Cooperative is the registration of herbicides for forest nurseries, site preparation, and stand release. Data supplied by

this project in 1977 produced one regional and twelve 24(G) state registrations for herbicides in forest nurseries.

### Glenn Glover

My work includes data analysis for two projects: "Nitrogen Fertilization of Loblolly Pine", with Dr. Brewer, and "Tree Leaf Reflectance and Biological Processes as Affected by Herbicides and Environmental Factors", with Dr. Gjerstad. I am also identifying needs and initiating research in growth and yield in Alabama. In addition, until the Forest Management position is filled, I am teaching the Forest Management course.

### James Goggans

Considerable effort was expended on research to aid Alabama's fledgling Christmas tree industry. Plantings of Virginia pine and Arizona cypress have been established at the Gulf Coast Substation (Virginia pine only). Then plantings are being used to study pruning methods and insect and disease control. Seeds for a 17-source Virginia pine seed source study were collected and grown. The 17-sources extend from Alabama northeastward to Maryland and West Virginia. Next year we plan to concentrate on studying the variation on longleaf pine and fighting the shield back seed bug in our loblolly and slash pine seed orchards.

### Michael Golden

I joined the Auburn Forestry Department faculty in January, 1975. Hired as a full-time (9 months) teacher, I have taught courses here in silviculture, watershed management, site evaluation, forest community investigations (graduate), and range management. Two summers were spent in research and one in a temporary research scientist assignment with the U. S. Forest Service in Honolulu.

I received a M.S. in forest ecology from Auburn, and a Ph.D. in plant ecology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. I was on the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies faculty at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville for 2½ years, working in research and teaching.

My present responsibilities at Auburn involve both research and teaching. Major research interests include ecology and silviculture of southern hardwoods and forest site classification and evaluation.

Earl Hodgkins

I am scheduled for retirement as of March 1. However, I plan to stay around the Department until I complete a bulletin to go with the published map, "Forest Habitat Regions from Satellite Imagery." Before next summer is over, the wife and I hope to have sold our Auburn home and to have moved into our small home at Fairhope. There I plan to do a lot of sailing and perhaps a little consulting. The address will be 206 Pier, Fairhope, Ala. 36532. The welcome mat will always be out for the many former students and associates accumulated over a period of 33 years in teaching and research at Michigan State and Auburn Universities.

Don Jones

The past year has gone by too quickly, doing the same old thing, but it seems, a lot more of it. More students, more material to press on them (with much less time to do it, or does it just seem that way?), more opportunities to serve alumni, more... I did have an opportunity to concentrate on some research into yield models, which I want to apply to Alabama forests in the future. I also want to develop, concurrently, some specific and efficient sampling designs to fit Alabama's forest conditions and ownership patterns.

Evert Johnson

It has been a year of transition. The make-up and personality of the Department is changing. The old timers are being put out to pasture and the Young Turks are taking over. As an old-timer I sometimes get the feeling that I'm at the top of a steep hill and have one foot on a banana peel. It has not been a comfortable, business-as-usual year. I can't help wondering what the future has in store. The curriculum is being restructured (I am chairman of the committee) and it appears that it will be quite different from the current version. The emphasis on research and the graduate program is being increased. Posey will retire in June and the students will lose their ultimate champion. This coming year will not be one for those who are weak of heart or mind!

During the past year I have taught my usual quota of courses (photogrammetry, sampling, and advanced mensuration) plus a regression course. Larry Sellman and I got out the photo-interpretation key for the Ridge and Valley Forest Habitat Regions. Incidentally, these keys are beginning to generate interest. Have

been active in the S.A.F.'s Inventory Working Group. Was involved in an I.W.G. week-long inventory short course at the University of Georgia and another major meeting on multiple resource inventories at Tucson, Arizona. Was a student at a short course in linear and goal programming at Colorado State University and there my wife and I toured the mountain west. We spent Christmas in Vermont so you can see I have been piling up the mileage during the year. I doubt that this pattern will continue in the coming year.

Best wishes to you all.

### Bobby Lanford

It is indeed a pleasure to be a member of the Auburn Forestry Department faculty. This will be my first attempt at academics from the other side of the podium, but I am looking forward to the new challenge. Most recently my work with industry has included mensurational problems with International Paper Company and timber harvesting and handling research and development with Meyerhaeuser Company. My work here at Auburn will center mainly on harvesting and handling forest raw materials with an expected work load of 75% research and 25% teaching. My association with industry has taught the necessity of producing and I plan to continue to produce even among the "ivory towers". If I can ever be of any assistance please feel free to call.

### Harry Larsen

I have been occupied by my regular teaching responsibilities in dendrology and silvics for three quarters of the past year. Increasing enrollment and doubling up of sections gave most teachers teaching loads which left little time for other activities.

The summer of 1977 was devoted to ongoing research on nitrogen fertilization of loblolly pine. This project involves several investigators and my phase of the work deals with total biomass and nitrogen distribution in young plantations. We obtained the last of a series of samples from the plantations in 1976, and we're busy making physical measurements of the samples and doing statistical analyses of the data.

Sam Lyle

At present, I am finishing a research project funded by the coal surface mining industry in Alabama. The five year funding ended last December and I am writing papers for publication based on research results. The articles will be concerned with tree, grass and legume establishment and growth on surface mines. I have a record surface mine research project funded by E.P.A. This project is concerned with the development of a minesoil classification scheme that will facilitate vegetation. So far, I haven't been "shot at" by any late coal mine strikers.

I will begin teaching an undergraduate course this spring quarter. It will be the first time I have taught such a course in about 15 years. Pity the unfortunate students!

Richard Martin

I started work at Auburn University on January 3, filling a research associate position. My BS and MS in forestry are from the University of Tennessee and I came to Auburn after working for the Conservation Commission in Missouri. I'll be managing the Forestry Department's outlying tracts, acting as a consultant on forested areas of the Agricultural Experiment Stations and will be assisting in course instruction.

Henry Posey

It has been over sixteen months since I first proposed attempting to perpetuate "the man" for future generations of "Auburn Foresters". To date I have received sixteen anecdotes, the latest in mid-September! Already, "Chris" means absolutely nothing to most of the students.

What do you see and hear when you look at the poplar in front of the building? Do you see a sweaty bulldog face gazing up one of its sixty-five foot plus relatives in open admiration? Do you see and hear a vigorous slap on its bole? Do you also hear, "Damn--isn't that a beautiful thing?" What do they see? A young poplar! What do they hear? Nothing!

The responses I have are not all ribald and/or hilarious, nor should they be. Chris' memories comprise much more than pity and earthy observations on human situations. Chris' teaching was more

than "techniques", most of which you have forgotten. I am not sure just what it is that Chris taught, it is intangible! Part of it, to me, is the force and impact on mortals of one imperfect human overflowing with love, with an all compelling desire to ease and better the lives of those he contacted, and, with a self-driving, self-consuming fire of devotion to duty. Perhaps Mike Harmon best summed it up at the dedication ceremonies when he said, "Chris was one hell of a man."

What is our "duty"? Certainly it cannot be just to cherish these memories to our respective graves. I cannot "go it alone". Please!

Hall and Farewell! I am rich in memories! God love all of you! -- "Hey Prof."

### David South

After obtaining a Master of Science degree from North Carolina State University, I came to Auburn in 1975 to become the assistant project leader for the Auburn University Forestry Chemicals Cooperative. My research involves testing herbicides for forest nurseries throughout the Southeast. I have collected and compiled data that were used for registering four herbicides for pine seedbeds. My research indicates that for hardwood seedbeds, herbicides can provide effective weed control without harming beneficial endomycorrhizal fungi. Over the past several years, I have visited over half of the nurseries in the Southeast as well as several nurseries in Europe and Australia.

## STUDENT NEWS

Forestry Club/Student Chapter SAF  
Alan Bruce, President

The major theme of this year's Student Chapter has been a substantial increase in membership combined with student initiative and involvement in new activities.

One of our first goals was to increase membership. This year we doubled membership from approximately 45 to 90 students. A major part of our success stemmed from promotion of keg parties, a student-faculty conclave, and interesting speakers at our bimonthly meetings.

A second goal was to organize members into working committees for the purpose of maintaining an active membership while working towards a few goals we established along the way.

The Education Committee was established with the purpose of increasing student awareness to the values of a forestry education. With this purpose in mind, the Education Committee acquired the Department's Convocation as its major promotion. The name was changed to the "Student's Distinguished Lecture Series". The format was changed to having the students invite a speaker, each quarter to speak at a Club meeting on Tuesday night and Forestry classes on Wednesday morning, and give a major presentation to students and faculty on Wednesday afternoon. This year we were fortunate in having Thomas Busch, Retired Chief Equipment and Logging Engineer-International Paper Company; and John McCullough, Alabama Forestry Commission, as our distinguished speakers.

The Social Committee was organized to promote parties. We had five keg-wiener roast parties throughout the year. The Prof. Christen Committee is in charge of Prof. Christen's personal effects. Many of these items are now on display in the student lounge. The Firewood Committee was organized to help finance club activities. Over \$500 was netted this year cutting, splitting, and delivering firewood to local customers. The Christmas Tree Committee was established to maintain and prepare for sale our 5 acre plantation of Virginia pine which was planted in 1975. The money from this plantation will be used to support the annual Association of Southern Forestry Clubs Conclave to be hosted by Auburn in 1981. Our Conclave Committee was established to promote student participation in the annual A.S.F.C. Conclave. This year the club took 60 members to Clemson, South Carolina and finished sixth out of 13 participating schools.

With all of our activity we decided it would be in our best interest to record and promote our accomplishments. We organized a Yearbook Staff to publish the first forestry yearbook in 17 years. Over \$1000 was received from industry to publish 1,500 copies. The Alumni Association will be given several hundred copies to distribute among the Alumni.

Looking back over the year I think our major achievement has been the fact that we, the students, have initiated and worked to make a better Student Chapter, a better Department and a better forestry profession.

I hope that your year has been as rewarding as mine and I look forward to joining your ranks in August.

Student Chapter, F.P.R.S.  
Everett Winters, President

Students in the graduate and undergraduate wood technology curricula at Auburn organized a student chapter of the Forest Products Research Society and were granted their official charter by the National Office of F.P.R.S. on May 19, 1977. Currently, the chapter is seeking recognition by the University Student Government Association.

Although a relatively small group in terms of membership, active participation in fund-raising efforts, professional advancement programs and regional, as well as annual F.P.R.S. meetings has characterized the group's first year in existence.

Chapter advisor, Dr. Harold Beals, encouraged the chapter to send five members to the annual national meeting in Denver, Colorado last July. The chapter members felt that it was such a success that fund-raising efforts since have been geared toward sending as many members as possible to the 1979 annual meeting.

The 1978 annual meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. The Auburn Student Chapter will be assisting as student hosts and are currently involved with the preparation of wooden paperweights as favors for F.P.R.S. members in attendance.

The leadership of the Southeastern Section has assisted the chapter since its inception, and student members have been delighted by such events as the Section meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama last fall, where a program of whole tree utilization was followed by a private tour of the Gulf States Paper Corporation executive offices; containing an extensive art collection, and dinner at the North River Yacht Club. The students plan to honor alumni and section members at a 'Charter Day' party this May.

The chapter meets at least once a quarter to discuss academic and professional matters and plan activities. Current officers are: Everett Winters, President; Steve Harris, Vice-President; and John Hines, Secretary-Treasurer.

Xi Sigma Pi  
Nancy Abernethy, Forester

Xi Sigma Pi has had an active year. Once more, we hosted the Alumni Coffee the morning of Homecoming. Then, on November 28, we had our annual fall initiation banquet at the Heart of

Auburn Restaurant. Fourteen new members were inducted into our fraternity. This year we had to say goodbye to Mr. Posey, who has served as a loyal and very helpful advisor to us. Xi Sigma Pi has always been special to him, and he to us - we'll miss him. Dr. E. W. Johnson was chosen to replace Mr. Posey as our advisor. This year's officers were: Forester - Nancy Abernethy, Associate Forester - Peter Zubowicz, Secretary-Fiscal Agent - David Duff.