

AFAA NEWS

AUBURN FORESTRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 1994



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JIM MARTIN '64

The Outstanding Forestry Alumnus Award was made during the Auburn Forestry Advisory Council meeting on April 12, 1994. The recipient of the 1993 award was Charlie Tarver '68 President, Forest Investment Associates, Atlanta, Georgia. I would like to thank Ken Bailey who chaired the selection committee along with Frank Stewart and Bob Fress who served with Ken.

The selection committee for the 1994 Outstanding Alumnus Award will be Frank Jones, Chairman, Noll Van Cleave and Tom Kelly. We ask that you submit candidates for nominations by sending the name and biographical sketch to Frank Jones, 1920 Sowell Farm Road, Brewton, Alabama 36426. Nominations should be submitted no later than November 1, 1994.



On May 17 I was pleased to present the AFAA Outstanding Senior Award for academics to David Martin. The award consisted of a Forestry Handbook and a check for \$250. (See Editor's Note)

I am pleased to announce the following members of the Executive Council to serve for the current two year term: James W. Martin, President; Mark Elliott, Vice President; Charlie Raper, Secretary-Treasurer; Vaughan Stough, Richard Jones and Lisa Himel. The council certainly solicits your ideas concerning our Alumni Association and ask for your support.

The Auburn Forestry Foundation and Forestry Development Committee met on March 4, 1994 in Montgomery. I was pleased to represent the Alumni Association at these meetings. During the meeting we voted to fund \$2,000 toward the cost of the Wood Procurement Weekend at the Dixon Center and to fund the reception for graduates and family along with the fall Bar-B-Que. The focus of the development work is the funding of a center of Excellence in Forest Policy. Also the new building remains a priority focus of the group. Gordon Stone has resigned from the Development Office and we will miss his excellent contribution to our Forestry School Development Program. We wish Gordon the best as he assumes his new position with the State Employees Association.

Jim Martin '64 David Martin '94

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Alumni events.

CORRECTION
Monday October 3
SHOULD BE
TUESDAY OCTOBER 4th

Monday	September 12	7:00-8:00 am	AFAA Breakfast Meeting	AFA Annual Meeting
			Perdido Beach Hilton - Orange Beach, AL.	
Monday	October 3	7:00 am	AFAA Annual Meeting Breakfast	Alabama Division SAF Meeting
			Perdido Beach Hilton - Orange Beach, AL.	
Thursday	October 27	Time TBA	AFAA Breakfast Meeting	SESAP Annual Meeting
			Macon, GA.	
Saturday	November 5	2 hours before kickoff	East Carolina Football Game	School of Forestry Homecoming Bar-B-Que

I look forward to seeing you at these Alumni events.

Editor's Note: David Martin ('94) is the son of our president Jim Martin ('64). David also won the university-wide President's Award for combined scholastic performance and extracurricular activities including being Vice President of the Student Government. As it turns out, Jim Martin also graduated at the head of his class and also won the President's Award in 1964.

DEAN'S REPORT

Emmett Thompson

As this issue of the Alumni Newsletter is being prepared, we are winding-down the 1993-94 academic year. This has been a very exciting and productive year. Our main accomplishment, as many of you know from previous reports, is the establishment of separate admission criteria for our professional curricula, along with a mechanism to limit enrollment to the number of students we can accommodate in the Summer Field Practicum at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center. We implemented this procedure for the first time this summer, and have 50 very highly qualified individuals attending this year's Practicum (summer camp). These students will always remember their summer at the Dixon Center. While all foresters have a variety of memories from their summer camp experiences, the current class at the Dixon Center will, among other things, remember the flood of '94. Many of you will recall that tropical storm "ALBERTO" came ashore in early July and caused extensive flooding damage in south Georgia and southeast Alabama. The Dixon Center did not escape. During the first half of July, the Dixon Center had 14½ inches of rain. June had been a relatively wet month with 12 inches of rain, so the ground was already wet. These rains came while Dick Brinker and Robert Fufts were teaching surveying, or trying to teach surveying. The normal procedure is to have an hour or two of lecture followed by the rest of the day in the field. At one point, I talked to the Dixon Center and Dick and Robert were four days ahead on lectures and starting to repeat. There are a little over 5,000 acres at the Dixon Center, almost 1,000 acres were under water, and, of course, surveying instruments and downpours do not mix very well. When it is all over, I am sure the students will have learned some surveying and accumulated a lot of experience with mud, wet clothes, etc.

The current academic year has also seen a real flurry of activity in terms of faculty recruitment. It has been several years since we have added to the faculty, but a combination of retirements and individuals leaving for alternative employment, created several vacancies. We are in the process of filling positions in extension natural resources, tree physiology, forest policy, forest pathology, and landscape ecology. Hopefully, we will have all of these filled by the next Alumni Newsletter and I can report on our success and qualifications of the individuals selected.

Finally, I want to let the Alumni know about a recent milestone. For a number of years, longer than I have been at Auburn, you have been contributing to the Auburn Forestry Foundation endowment. This is an endowed account within the greater Auburn University Foundation which was established by our alumni and is managed by a Board of Directors elected from among alumni. I make recommendations on expenditures, but the Board of Directors has the final say. For several years, we have not spent any money from this fund, returning all earnings to principal in order to increase the endowment. This year, in working with the Board of Directors, the endowment was judged to be of sufficient magnitude that we could begin spending approximately half the earnings and returning the remainder to principal. The Board of Directors approved our recommendation that we partially support student attendance at a wood procurement weekend at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, as well as support our quarterly reception for graduates and their families. The procurement weekend is a course designed by Glenn Glover that brings together a number of industrial wood procurement managers who work as team leaders with students as team members. It is an extremely beneficial education experience and we appreciate the opportunity to defray some of the students' costs. As this endowment continues to grow, we will be able to finance additional projects of this type.

FORESTRY CLUB REPORT

SCOTT LYNN, President

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the Auburn University Forestry Club. Thanks to your contributions in the past the Club has been able to continue to attend the Conclave and to sustain itself through the year. Your continued support is imperative for the future success of the Club. We are in need of new equipment for Conclave in order to be competitive in next year's events. Please come by and purchase that new hat or t-shirt from the club at the Alumni Bar B Q. We look forward to seeing you in November and thanks again for your support. The items we have for sale this year are as follows:

Green Hats	\$10.00	Blue Hats	\$10.00
Orange Hats	\$10.00	White Hats	\$10.00
Coffee Mugs	\$ 8.00		
T-Shirts	\$10.00		

Christmas is coming and these items make good stocking-stuffers. To order by mail send check (made out to AU Forestry Club) to Mrs. Lane Messer, School of Forestry, 100 M. White Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. If you would like any of these items mailed there is an additional \$2.00 charge per item for shipping and handling.

TIGER REPORT

Editor's Note: Kirk Brady ('93) is a forestry graduate student who includes eagle-training among his extracurricular activities. He was recently sighted limping into M. W. Smith, and this remarkable tale emerged.

When I was first asked about my recent injury by "Tiger" (Auburn's Golden Eagle mascot) I was unsure of what to say. I'll be the first to admit getting taloned by a famous eagle isn't exactly a routine injury for a graduate student. I guess the best approach would be to describe what happened, the probable reason why Tiger attacked me, and to include some general comments on life with this bird. Tiger, by the way, is a 16 year-old female with a wingspan of over 6 feet and a gross weight of 10 pounds, combat-loaded.

Well, what did happen? It was an early Tuesday morning. One of the other trainers and I were out at the aviary to feed Tiger for the day. We arrived at the aviary and were preparing to get her out. It was then that we noticed a blue jay that was 'dive bombing' Tiger while she was sitting on her perch. While Tiger was becoming perturbed she didn't seem to feel like doing anything about it. We gave her a second to see what she would do. Upon noting our arrival she flew to the door as if she expected us to do something about the jay. We went in and got her up on glove. She didn't seem to be particularly upset by the jay incident and sat there calm as normal. We staked out the line that we feed her on (essentially it's a modified dog run line) and got ready to feed. The first 2 or 3 flights went normally and we didn't see any reason to be concerned, or so we thought; she'd fly right at me, land on the glove, get her bite to eat, and fly off. However, on one approach she pulled up short and landed on the ground about 1-1/2 yards in front of me. While this was a concern, she had been doing that of late and I reacted as normal.

Much to my surprise, she then went for me. I've had that happen on another occasion and while dangerous it's not an unmanageable situation. Unfortunately, when she chose to attack she was only a yard or a yard and a half away from me. I was unable to react fast enough to get my glove in front of her before she struck. She footed me on the leg HARD (footing is a term that's used with raptors: it means a rapid strike with the foot). She pierced my calf to the bone with her right inside talon and scraped the back of my calf with another talon. It was a clean puncture and she had driven her 2" talon all the way in! It hurt like ~~23%#~~! I pushed her off and backed up. At that point the only thing I could do was to guard myself 'til the other trainer got there. As bad as it sounds, I got off light and am glad for it. She could have done much worse if she'd wanted to; had she chosen to "lock" her talons on my leg there would be no way to humanly get her talons out until she chose to let go. (The procedure for locked-in talons is to drag bird and trainer to the birdbath, and hold the bird under water until she decides to unlock her talons. Sooner or later she'll do so.) Had that been the case it's doubtful I'd have any use of my leg now. As it is I'm still walking funny a week and a half later.

Now, why did she attack? The dive-bombing blue jay undoubtedly had something to do with her aggression, but there were several other factors that most likely contributed to the attack. First, Tiger (like most raptors) is in molt at this time of the year. The loss of several feathers tends to make her feel somewhat vulnerable and as a result more aggressive. The rainy weather also most likely had a bit to do with her attack. Lastly she is an eagle. Trained eagles have been known to attack their trainers before. It is my considered opinion that all of these factors played a role.

Although Tiger has spent her entire life being fed and tended by humans, she remains a wild creature. (We have had Tiger on loan from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1986. She was seized by FWS in a raid on an illegal wildlife-raising enterprise where she had been born and raised and was thus not considered suitable for release.)

We take Tiger on about 70-80 "outings" per year, such as football games, other major athletic events, and various other university-related functions. As you can understand, we exercise extreme care in these situations, and to this point I know of no instance in which she has attacked or injured a member of the public. We won't put her or the public at risk. We constantly stand guard while she's loose inside her aviary and discourage the public from trying to feed or harass her. We get pretty emphatic about this sometimes...a finger or small arm poked into the aviary is an appendage in real danger of being lost! As eagles go, Tiger is a well-mannered bird and in fact sometimes seems to appreciate a certain amount of attention from people. As trainers, we are not afraid of her but we do respect her rather potent capabilities, and we urge the public to do likewise.

If anyone would like more information about Tiger call Alpha Phi Omega Student Book Exchange at 844-4978 and ask for "Eagle Trainer". Kirk Brady (FYR '93)

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL ALUMNI

PLEASE KEEP YOUR ADDRESS UPDATED WITH US.
Return the attached postcard with corrections, additions, etc.

OTHER NEWS

The Association's 1993 Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to Charles M. Tarver ('68). Mr. Tarver is founder and President of Forest Investment Associates, Atlanta, Ga., a major timberland investment management firm.

Rob Langford ('62) has recently been appointed Special Agent in charge, Birmingham Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was commissioned into U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation from Auburn and spent 5 years on active duty as an infantry officer including a 13-month tour in Viet Nam, rising to the rank of Captain. He then went with the FBI and served in Houston, Detroit, Buffalo and most recently, Washington, D.C. In Birmingham, he is in charge of the FBI's activities in 31 northern Alabama counties, involving four branch offices, 58 agents and a support staff of 60. He and his wife, the former Martha McClinton of Hueytown ('61, Home Ec.) are delighted to finally get back to Alabama, and he looks forward to seeing (socially, may we all hope) old friends and classmates.

Robert N. Gandy ('74) has joined Forest Seed Company, Odenville, as General Manager of Production.

Dr. Walt Kelley ('64, M.S. '66) has retired. At this writing he and his wife are enroute to Alaska in their camper to attend the SAF Annual Meeting in Anchorage. Upon his return to Auburn, Dr. Kelley will continue teaching at summer practicum and advising his current group of undergraduates. Dr. Kelley will also give increased concentration to turkey hunting and consulting activities. Among other things, Dr. Kelley won both the SGA's and the School of Forestry's "Teacher of the Year" awards in 1994, and The Southeastern Society of American Foresters' Award for Excellence in Research in 1992.

Dennis E. Norton ('83) has formed his own company, Tran South, Inc. (aka "TSI") in Covington, GA., specializing in aerial spraying and herbicide consulting.

Marc A. Walley ('85) has joined Forest Investment Associates, Atlanta, Ga. He was formerly with Scott Paper Company in Mobile.

AUBURN FORESTRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

(1994 and 1995)

PRESIDENT	James W. Martin ('64)
VICE PRESIDENT	Mark P. Elliot ('82)
SECRETARY-TREASURER	Charles F. Raper
PAST PRESIDENT	Jim Spears ('58)

School of Forestry
Auburn University Alumni Association
Auburn University, AL 36849-5418

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