

AFAA NEWS

AUBURN FORESTRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
WINTER 1994



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT JIM SPEARS ('58)

The two years I have served as your Alumni President have been interesting and rewarding. Changes have occurred in the University Administration and the leadership seems to reflect a positive attitude toward forestry. The School and Alumni and friends look forward to working with Dr. Muse to further the cause of Auburn Forestry.

It is encouraging to see more alumni and friends getting involved in the process of Auburn Forestry development. One year after the formation of The Auburn Foundation - Forestry Society we find that among the 12 colleges and schools at Auburn, Forestry is third this year in the number of gifts of \$1,000 or more. This is the type of support Dean Thompson and his faculty need.

The School's faculty should make us all proud. In addition to quality programs in education and public service the School of Forestry is Auburn's most productive in generating extramural funding for research. This is what keeps research programs going during proration and budget shortfall from state funds.

Plans are still being developed for the much needed renovation and expansion of our forestry building on campus. Progress of this project will be passed on to you in future news letters.

Many thanks to Mary Lou Gamble and Art Arnold as they complete terms as directors of the Auburn Forestry Foundation. We welcome Melisa Himel and Rick Jones as new Directors.

As I step down as Alumni President please welcome Jim Martin as your new president and give him your support in continuing the progress of Auburn Forestry Development.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT JIM MARTIN ('64)

It is certainly an honor to be selected to serve as President of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association for the next two years. The School of Forestry has played a significant part of my life and I am pleased to assume a role which can provide help to the School.

The next two years will be a very active time for the School of Forestry. During this time we should be into or near a building program for much needed additional space.

I urge that each of you provide active support for our fine School of Forestry through support of Alumni activities and programs. Graduates from the School of Forestry now number 1,505. We can truly make a positive difference for the School as a group of alumni.

In the last By Law Change all graduates are automatically members of the Forestry Alumni Association. In lieu of dues I would ask each of you to make contributions to the School through the School of Forestry Annual Giving Campaigns. Each contributor will receive a small gift of appreciation from the Alumni Association. As you reflect on what the School of Forestry has meant to you I trust that you will see fit to contribute.

I would like to thank Jim Spears for the excellent job that he did as our Alumni President for the past two years. Jim certainly gave untold hours to help the School of Forestry and he will be a hard President to follow.

We will keep you informed of Alumni activities and programs through the biannual Alumni newsletter. If you have suggestions or questions concerning our Forestry Alumni Association please call me at 205-459-3005. Again I look forward to serving you as President of the Alumni Association for the next two years.

Forestry Receives Major Gift

In December 1993, Dr. Louise Turner, a retired Auburn faculty member, made a gift of approximately 110 acres of land to the Auburn University Foundation for use by the School of Forestry. This property is located three miles north of Auburn at the intersection of State Highway 147 and County Road 072. This is the Farnville Church intersection for those of you familiar with the area. It is one mile south of "The Bottle", and directly across 147 from the University's Fisheries Research Ponds. Being this close to Auburn, makes the property an ideal facility for teaching. As time passes, I am sure we will also utilize the gift for research and demonstrations. The property will be named the "Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve". The only restriction on our use is that the University will keep the property in perpetuity and not develop it for other uses. The soils and timber on this property are much different than those on the Mary Olive Thomas Tract, and together they give our programs a real boost in terms of having access to field sites very close to Auburn. We have discussed having an alumni function, such as the Homecoming Barbecue, on the property to give you an opportunity to become better acquainted with its potential. We'll keep you posted.

DEAN'S REPORT

Emmett F. Thompson

As we begin a new year it is a good time to take stock of our accomplishments during the preceding year. I think 1993 was an extremely productive year for the School of Forestry.

In the last Newsletter, I indicated we had a proposal to the University administration to limit enrollment by admitting a specified number of students to the summer field program held at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center. I am pleased to report that this proposal has been approved, and will be implemented beginning summer 1994. In essence, the process involves students being enrolled in a pre-forestry curriculum prior to summer camp, and applying for admission to the professional curricula beginning with the summer program. The academic requirements for admission to the professional curricula are slightly higher than for general Auburn University admission. In addition, if more students qualify for the professional curricula than can be accommodated at the Dixon Center, we will use past academic performance to select students up to the number we can handle. This has several implications: our enrollment will be compatible with the constraints of our physical facilities; we will have class sizes that contribute to quality instruction; and we will graduate a number of students each year which should be compatible with the professional employment opportunities available.

We have also just taken another step which should significantly enhance undergraduate education. We have employed two part-time instructors to work with the faculty to improve student communications and quantitative skills. These individuals, who have masters degrees in communications and mathematics respectively, are experienced in working with students in these areas. We feel we will see decided benefits almost immediately.

I am also excited about the potential we are seeing in working with a number of private individuals and firms to establish an endowment for excellence in forest policy at Auburn University. Forest policy is an increasingly important area and our effort has been received with enthusiasm by the state's forestry community. This program will give us an opportunity to develop one more area of excellence.

With respect to excellence, I now feel we have programs in several areas, which, if they are not the absolute best in the South, are as good as any in the region, and probably in the nation. These areas include traditional undergraduate forestry education; forestry herbicides; forest nursery management; forest engineering; and forested wetlands research. Now, we hope to add forest policy to this list.

The above are all areas which are essential if we are to continue to provide forestry academic leadership in the region and nation, and to properly serve the citizens of Alabama with respect to forestry research, education, and extension.

As always, if we can provide information on any of the School's programs or activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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)

AUBURN FORESTRY FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Bill Jones, Montgomery, President	95
Jim Spears, Atmore	95
Leighton Skinner, Pine Hill	97
Vaughn Stough, Birmingham	97
Melisa Himel, Opelika	99
Richard H. Jones, Brewton	99
James W. Martin, Butler, as President of Forestry Alumni Association	

John R. Cook, Jr. ('48) passed away on January 18, 1994. At the time of his death John was living in Andalusia. John was a member of Auburn's first forestry graduating class and a strong supporter of the School. He was honored as the Forestry Alumni Association's "Outstanding Alumnus" in 1990. In addition to his many other contributions, John was probably more responsible than any other individual for the gift which resulted in the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center. In 1976, Solon asked John's opinion on making a gift to Auburn which would include the Dixon homestead, and whether he thought Forestry could use such a gift. John told Solon he thought a facility that could be used for forestry summer camp would be extremely beneficial. The rest is history.

A number of individuals have made contributions to the Auburn Forestry Foundation in John's memory. Others wishing to make similar contributions may send them to the Dean's Office, School of Forestry, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418.

Retired professor Earl J. Hodgkins died on August 7 at his home in Fairhope, Alabama, of an apparent heart attack. Dr. Hodgkins taught undergraduate and graduate courses in silviculture and forest ecology in the Auburn Department of Forestry for 26 years, retiring in 1978. He and his wife Helen, who passed away in 1992, raised nine children while in Auburn. Besides his impact on a large number of forestry students, he was best known professionally for his studies of the use of indicator plant species to predict longleaf pine site quality, and for physiographic site classification of forest land.

We are sad to report the death of James H. (Jimmy) Dukes, Jr. in August 1993. Jimmy was 35 years old. Jimmy had been in a coma since 1989 because of injuries received in an automobile accident which occurred near Corvallis, Oregon.

Jimmy received his BS and MS in Forestry from Auburn University in 1981 and 1984, respectively. He was an outstanding student graduating with one of the highest grade point averages (3.89) ever received by an Auburn forestry student. As an undergraduate, he was in the Honors Program and was on the Dean's List nine quarters. He received an E.A. Hauss Fellowship and was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Xi Sigma Pi honor societies. His Master of Science degree was in Forest Ecology/Tree Physiology under the direction of Dean Gjerstad. He was pursuing the PhD degree at Oregon State University at the time of the accident.

Jamie Lane, 34, an Auburn forestry graduate of 1982, was accidentally killed October 29, 1993, in a logging accident. He was survived by his wife, Jean, and 16-month old daughter, Merlam. Jamie loved forestry and logging. Raised in a logging family, he tried working for other forest products companies but came back to owning his own logging company. Jamie believed that forwarder technology would be the system of the future and set about to prove its feasibility in 1989 when he started his business. With most critics saying he would not succeed, he did through persistence and hard work. Ironically, Jamie was killed by the type machine he was trying to replace—a skidder. No one knows exactly how the accident occurred, but knowing how safety conscious Jamie was, it was a freak set of circumstances that caught him off guard. The forestry profession lost a good friend and productive member, but all have been blessed by Jamie's strong convictions for doing the job right and for his good humor when things did not go as planned.

OTHER NEWS

Charles M. Tarver ('68), President, Forest Investment Associates, Atlanta, has received the Award For General Forestry from the Southeastern Society of American Foresters.

James R. (Ray) Clifton ('85), Procurement Forester, Union-Camp, Opelika, has received the Outstanding Young Forester of The Year Award from the Southeastern Society of American Foresters.

Dr. David South of the faculty has recently returned from a sabbatical in South Africa; Craig Trummel, Senior FYR, spent six months in New Zealand on a Bradley/Murphy Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Trust Fellowship studying the privatization of New Zealand's National Forests. Further particulars on these gents' overseas adventures will be in the Summer issue of The Newsletter.

Dr. William R. Sizemore, Sizemore & Sizemore, Tallahassee, has been appointed Affiliate Professor. He will be involved in appraisal-related Research and Graduate Programs.

Terry Sellers, Jr. (BS '60, MS '62) has been awarded a Doctor of Agriculture degree by the University of Tokyo. A Professor at Mississippi State, he is one of only a few Americans to be awarded a Doctorate by this very prestigious Japanese University.

His doctoral dissertation related to the use of renewable lignin, the natural binder of wood fiber, as a replacement for nonrenewable petrochemicals used for adhesives to bond wood composites such as plywood, strandboard, and fiberboard. The lignin in the study was separated from wood by "environmental friendly" pulping processes that use no added acids, alkalies or sulfur-bearing chemicals which means no air contaminates and no contribution to "acid rain".

In 1993, Dr. Sellers was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the U.S. Department of Commerce in recognition of his work in developing and implementing Common North American Standards on Plywood and Related Products between Canada and the United States.

James M. Kress ('58) retired in Mobile after a thirty-year Federal career with USFS ('62-'79) and Dept of Interior's office of Surface Mining and Reclamation ('79-'90). Along the way he earned two Master's degrees (Watershed Hydrology and Public Administration), a USDA Certificate of Appreciation for directing their first nationwide streamside survey ('78), and in 1991 was awarded a Citation for Valor by USDI for having - at considerable risk to himself - saved the life of a co-worker in a strip-mining incident.

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

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