

# AUBURN FORESTRY

Auburn Forestry Alumni Association Newsletter

Fall 1998

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## GONE FISHING

It was with great joy and a touch of sadness, that forestry celebrated the April 1, 1998, retirement of Emmett F. Thompson, Dean Emeritus of the Auburn University School of Forestry. Numerous functions were held honoring this special occasion. Among these was a standing room only event on March 12, 1998, at Cock of the Walk restaurant in Opelika. The crowd of more than 150 well-wishers included School of Forestry (SOF) faculty, staff, family and friends, as well as a large contingency of the SOF Advisory Council made up of industry leaders from across the state. After an evening of laughter and reminiscing, Emmett was presented with a 17-foot aluminum john boat, complete with trolling motor and fishing accessories, to use in his favorite past time.

Emmett began his academic career in forestry education at Virginia Tech after obtaining a B.S. in Forestry from Oklahoma State, an M.S. in Forest Management from North Carolina State, and a Ph.D. in Forest Economics from Oregon

State. After achieving the rank of Professor at Virginia Tech, he moved to an administrative position as Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry at Mississippi State University in 1973. Emmett came to Auburn University in 1977 as Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry which was then within the College of Agriculture. When the Department of Forestry became a separate school in 1984, he became its first dean. When Emmett retired in 1998, he was the longest tenured dean on the campus, and the senior dean of all forestry programs in the country.



Emmett Thompson

Emmett's professional offices and memberships are extensive. As an active member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), he has held Chapter, Section, and Society elected offices and has been on numerous SAF national committees. His significant contributions to the forestry profession were recognized in 1984 when he was elected a fellow of the Society

(cont. on pg. 4)

## FORESTRY WELCOMES A NEW DEAN

On April 1, 1998, the School of Forestry proudly welcomed Extension Forestry Specialist Richard W. Brinker as its new dean. In succeeding Dean Emeritus Emmett Thompson, who retired after 14 years in the position, he becomes only the second dean in the history of the Auburn School of Forestry.

Although new to the position of dean, Brinker has been a member of the School of Forestry for a decade. He has 15 years experience in forestry education and extension, preceded by 11 years professional experience in the forest industry.

Brinker joined the Auburn University faculty in 1988, after earning a Ph.D. in forestry from Louisiana State University (LSU), from which he earned a bachelor's degree in forestry in 1970. He also holds an MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi. Before coming to Auburn, he was a research assistant at LSU for five years.

The new dean already has an impressive record of accomplishments, both in and out of academics. A colonel in the Army Reserve, Brinker served in active duty in the Mid-

dle East during the Persian Gulf War in 1990-91. In 1994, he became a specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He was later named Extension Forester of the Year for the Southeastern United States in 1997 by the Forest Landowners Association. Brinker was also instrumental in developing and teaching an award-winning course on business management practices to more than 1,400 professional loggers in Alabama.

In addition to his responsibilities as dean, Brinker continues to teach undergraduate and graduate forestry courses as well as participating in research opportunities with other faculty members.

Brinker is a great teacher and effective leader who brings to the role of dean the widespread support of the forest industry as well as the academic community. He inspires confidence that he can continue to progress the future of forestry education at Auburn.

## THE DEAN'S CORNER

The School of Forestry at Auburn passed a milestone last year as it reached 50 years since its establishment. The first class of 14 seniors graduated in 1948. They will be returning to campus during homecoming on October 24 and will see many changes, but also many similarities. We have evolved from a discipline within the Department of Horticulture to a separate department within the School of Agriculture in 1948 to an autonomous School of Forestry in 1984. We have continually changed during this time. Our students have received a strong forestry education, many faculty members have spent careers as moulders of minds, and the curriculum has evolved as the needs of the profession have changed. The School of Forestry has improved with each passing decade.

I assumed the role as Dean of the School of Forestry this past April 1. But, as many of you know, I have been on the School of Forestry faculty for the previous 10 years. I look forward to the many challenges that await us as we move into the next millennium. It is exciting to work with the students, faculty, and staff of the university and with forest landowners, loggers, professional foresters and managers within the forest products industry who want to be a part of our efforts to make the School of Forestry the premier forestry program in the country. It is especially heart-warming to work with the many alumni who have the warmest feelings for their School of Forestry.

There are numerous issues currently facing us as we look toward becoming the premier program in the country. Two of these are going to impact our program in the very near future, and I would like to update you on these opportunities.

We have been discussing the need for a new state-of-the-art facility for the school. We developed a conceptual plan four years ago, and estimated that the cost of the 100,000-square-foot facility would approximate \$15 million. At that time we received an offer of \$7.5 million toward the project if the university would provide a 50 percent matching contribution towards the building. Based primarily on debt load resultant from the campus building boom of the 80's, the Auburn University Board of Trustees were unwilling to take any additional debt on the university to build new buildings, and did not match the offer. The offer was understandably withdrawn after several months.

We have since been working to develop support from both state and federal sources, and are seeing some potential from both sources. We have, through the efforts of the Alaba-



ma Forestry Association and several agricultural commodity groups, been able to get a \$52 million Agricultural bond issue passed by the Legislature. It will provide \$7 million for a new building to the School of Forestry. This bond issue will be a referendum on the November ballot, and I urge you to vote 'yes' on the Agricultural Bond Issue Referendum. The \$7 million resultant from this bond issue will provide approximately 40 percent of the necessary funds to construct a new forestry building.

Through the efforts of Senators Shelby and Sessions, we are also hopeful to obtain federal funding assistance. They have included \$3 million in the federal budget to support construction of forestry research facilities at Auburn University. This proposed budget has come out of the Budget Committee and has yet to go to the House Appropriations Committee. We are appreciative of the support of our state's delegation in Washington and are hopeful that these funds will remain in the budget.

These state and federal funds will cover about 75 percent of the projected cost of a new forestry facility, which we estimate will cost about \$20 million today. We plan to raise the remaining required funds from private sources.

The second issue facing us is the current efforts by the Board of Trustees to address the reorganization of Auburn University. Last April, the Board of Trustees appointed a 10-person commission to investigate the role of Auburn University in the 21st Century. This commission is made up of five Trustee members, four Auburn faculty and administrators, and one Auburn University at Montgomery administrator. Their mission is to evaluate how to "streamline" the operation of the university and identify possible efficiencies. The savings from these efforts are to be used to support faculty salary enhancement to bring Auburn faculty salaries up to or near the regional average for university faculty. Currently Auburn University faculty salaries are at 86 percent of the regional average. The Trustees are hopeful that bringing faculty salaries to the regional average will stop the loss of some of our most highly qualified faculty at Auburn to competing universities.

In this light, proposals have been requested by President William V. Muse to reorganize the university to enhance efficiency, improve productivity, enhance educational benefits, and reduce costs. Forestry is the smallest school on campus and as such is certainly subject to being viewed as a management unit that for increased efficiency could be incorporated into a larger college. I know that the school of Forestry has flourished since gaining school status in 1984. Our faculty members are highly productive in teaching, research, and extension activities. Any recommendation that would incorporate the School of Forestry as a non-autonomous department or school within a larger non-natural resources college could seriously impair our ability and goal to become the premier forestry program in the country.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure and honor that I serve you as your Alumni Association President. Although I am well into my first year of the two-year term, I am still looking forward to a challenging and learning experience. I look forward to meeting new faces and seeing old faces from previous years.

The Auburn Forestry Club Annual Awards Banquet kicked off the year's activities. The club officers did an excellent job organizing the event. This year, the Outstanding Senior Award went to Albert E. "Rick" Schober III '98. Like many of us he chose to follow his father's footsteps into the woods of a forestry career (Albert E. Schober Jr. '64). At the Advisory Committee Meeting dinner, R.C. Wakefield was recognized for his contributions to forestry and was presented a plaque for this year's Outstanding Alumnus. Wakefield is a member of the graduating class of 1949. As you can see, the Forestry Alumni spirit and tradition continue to prosper.

As Alumni, the School of Forestry needs your spirit, sense of tradition, and support as much as ever before. As you know, the University is going through extremely difficult budgetary restraints and limitations. In an effort to become more efficient, the university has organized a committee to raise cost-cutting issues, and to identify low priority curriculum. This committee is called the Trustees Commission to Investigate the university's role into the Twenty First Century. The commission also has asked for cost-cutting recommendations from university staff and faculty.

So far two things have come from this commission that could affect the School of Forestry. First the Forest, Engineering curricula has been identified as low priority due to the low number of graduates. The good news is that it will merge with Agricultural Engineering. The second, and most potentially damaging to the School of Forestry, is a recommendation presented to the commission to place the school back into the College of Agriculture. This action would severely limit the school's autonomy and budgetary funding. Our voice as Alumni and employers of future graduates need to let it be known that we are no way in favor of such action. On September 18, President Must made recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding such matters. Also, in coming months, we will hear more about how the forestry curriculum will be affected when the university moves from the quarter system to the semester system in the Fall of 2000. Dr. Brinker will be briefing you in greater detail concerning these matters in this publication.

The fall is a beautiful time of year to visit Auburn. The trees are showing their many fall colors and Toomer's Corner will be white with toilet paper, celebrating Auburn's most recent victory. Please make plans to come to our annual Homecoming Barbecue. This is a great opportunity to see old classmates and friends. Also, it is a chance to visit places that hold many fond memories. I hope to see you there!

In closing, let me ask you for your feedback and recommendations regarding your Forestry Alumni Association. It is my goal to see that the spirit and tradition of the Association continue to be a viable and growing part of the Auburn University School of Forestry.

Mark Bond '90

President

Auburn Forestry Alumni Association

### Cast Your Vote For Forestry

On November 3, vote yes  
to Constitutional Amendment No. 3

If passed, Auburn University will benefit from \$29.5 million of the total \$52 million bond issue. These funds will support projects such as poultry science and animal science buildings, a large animal facility for veterinary medicine, and includes \$7 million for a new School of Forestry complex.

#### Proposed Amendment No. 3

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, authorizing the issuance, sale, and refunding of general obligation bonds of the State of Alabama of up to \$52,000,000 for the purposes of providing, equipping, and improving facilities relating to animal and livestock diagnostic services and for use as educational research and promotional facilities in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and veterinary medicine. (Proposed by Act No. 98-378)

Thanks for your continued support.

More than one proposal suggests putting the School of Forestry back into the College of Agriculture. In my opinion, reverting to a 1960's era academic structure is not the answer to solving problems of the 21st Century. However, there are many positive opportunities that exist where forestry and other natural resource disciplines, such as Wildlife, Fisheries, and Forest Engineering, could be combined into a single program. We have submitted a proposal to create a College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources; and there are several others that incorporate this idea. President Muse is evaluating these proposals and his recommendation for reorganization at Auburn University will go before the Trustee's Commission in mid-September. The commission will then take public comment at its October meeting and give the Board of Trustees its recommendation on reorganization on November 19. We will keep you informed as these significant changes occur.

I look forward to the many opportunities that await the School of Forestry as we move into the next millennium. I certainly have a positive and progressive outlook to the future. We will continue the tradition of educating well-prepared professional forestry graduates, and continue to strive to make the School of Forestry at Auburn THE School to attend to get the best forestry education in the country!

WAR EAGLE!!

Richard W. Brinker  
Dean  
School of Forestry

and again in 1994 with his induction into the Alabama Forester's Hall of Fame. He is active in many other professional organizations, including the Alabama Forestry Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Forest Landowners Association.

Although Emmett will be missed as dean, his contributions to forestry continue. He is currently working on an oral history of forestry in Alabama and is serving as Chairman of the Development Committee. He and his wife, Vi are also spending time with friends, their three children Juli, Chuck, and Merj, and their new granddaughter, Susannah Grace. In his spare time, Emmett is enjoying growing trees and pond fishing on his farm in Gold Hill. Congratulations, Emmett, and catch us a big one.

## ANNUAL FORESTRY HOMECOMING BARBECUE

You can feel it in the air. After a long, scorching summer, fall has finally arrived. The leaves are changing, football season is in full swing, and the weather is tempting you with cooler days. What could be better? How about attending an old-fashioned barbecue? Well, you are in luck! It is time once again for the Annual School of Forestry Homecoming Barbecue. This year's event will take place at McWhite Smith Hall on Saturday, November 7, 1998. We will meet beginning at 11:00 a.m. for registration, reminiscing, and our traditional repast of barbecue and fixins from The Barbecue House. After the feast, we will head over to Jordan-Hare Stadium and watch our Tigers take on Central Florida.

Last year's barbecue was one of the largest and best in this event's nearly two-decade history. Let's make this one even better. Come bring your family and friends. The dinner bell is ringing, and we've saved you a place!

## FACULTY UPDATE

### Hellos.

Ben Cashore, Assistant Professor Forest Policy and Economics, was previously employed in a postdoctoral position at the University of British Columbia.

Allison Orr '71, Writing Coordinator, holds an M.Ed. in English Education from Auburn and was previously a member of the Auburn University-Montgomery faculty. In addition to her position with the School of Forestry, she is also on the faculty of LaGrange College in LaGrange, GA.

Bruce Zutter '86, Director of the Auburn University Silvicultural Herbicide Cooperative, joined the faculty after finishing his doctorate at Auburn.

### Goodbyes.

John Bliss, Associate Professor of Forest Sociology/Economics and Extension Forestry Specialist, left Auburn this spring. Dr. Bliss, a member of the faculty since 1990, is now employed in the Department of Forest Resources at Oregon State University-Scio in the area of private and family forestry.

Evangelos Biblis, Professor of Wood Utilization and Technology, retired from Auburn University on August 31, 1998. Dr. Biblis has been with the school since 1965 and has made great contributions in his 33 year tenure. Although retired, he plans to continue visiting the School of Forestry regularly. Congratulations, Dr. Biblis, and good luck on your retirement.

## OUTSTANDING FORESTRY ALUMNUS AWARD

The Auburn University Forestry Alumni Association proudly presented the 1997 Outstanding Alumnus Award to R. C. Wakefield of Sylacauga. Since graduating from the School of Forestry in 1949, Wakefield has been a pioneer in establishing the forest industry and profession in the State of Alabama and has been an ardent support of Auburn.

Wakefield, a Winston County native, is a veteran of World War II and was a German Prisoner of War. Following the war, he was among the first group of forestry graduates from Auburn University, thus making him a member of the distinguished group that established the forestry profession in the State of Alabama.

Wakefield's numerous professional accomplishments have greatly impacted the forestry profession. He was one of the first to promote the practice of forestry to the individual land owner. While working with Great Northern Paper Company, he established a network of company-owned and operated pulpwood yards. During his time with Kimberly-Clark Corporation, he was instrumental in re-establishing the practice of relying on the free market for a large portion of Coosa Pine's wood requirements. Wakefield presided over the transition from using only shortwood at Coosa to using predominately tree-length wood. He assisted in the re-building of the Coosa Mill Woodyard to accommodate tree-length wood. His was also instrumental in the 1981 completion of the first major state-of-the-art satellite chip mill in East Alabama.

Wakefield has been active in both educational and professional development endeavors. He is a member of the School of Forestry Advisory Council, the Auburn University Alumni Association, the Alabama Forestry Council, the Alabama Forestry Association, the Society of American Foresters, and the University of Alabama Mines and Minerals Association. He is also a Registered Forester in the State of Alabama.

## DONOR'S LOVE OF AUBURN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Sue Pearson is changing the future. By establishing an endowed scholarship for juniors and seniors in the School of Forestry in honor of her father Rose Eugene Archison, Pearson has invested in Alabama's forestry industry.

Born in 1886, the oldest of eight children, Archison developed a strong work ethic by assisting his father at a saw mill and in home construction. He attended McAdory High School at McCalla, AL, and Wheeler Business College in Birmingham. He worked for Paul Meeker Barnett's Lumber Company before returning to Bessemer, where he established his own lumber company. He was a successful businessman and when he died in 1974, he left a large holding of real estate and land much of which was forested acreage in Central Alabama.

In addition to being known for his work ethic and business savvy, Mr. Archison is remembered as a compassionate member of the community and as a loving father to his five children. Pearson hopes that the scholarship will help a person with similar qualities achieve success at Auburn and then work to advance the state of Alabama.

Pearson said that her father always wished that he could have attended Auburn. Even though she was the only of his children to attend the university, during football games, "He would always be in my corner. He loved Auburn, and he would be very pleased that this scholarship was established."

Rose Archison may not have been able to attend Auburn, but now because of his hard work and soft heart, someone else can.



A portrait of Hester Wear and Rose Eugene Archison graces the wall in the Birmingham home of Jack '79 (l) and Sue Pearson '79 (r).

## ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

### 1940's

The class of '48, better known as Auburn University's first forestry graduates, celebrated their 50th anniversary this year with a Golden Eagles Reunion. The event was held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center the weekend of October 22-24, 1998. Members of this landmark class include Charles W. Brown of Mooresville, NC; William Lewis Certain III of Huntsville; the late Joseph F. Christophor; the late John R. Cook; Leon F. Estes of Jackson, MS; Robert Bernard Freese of Mobile; Jake Barnett Matthews of Talladega; the late Oswald H. Mimms; Convo Leon Olive Jr. of Athens, TN; the late Harrell L. Phillips; Frank Marion Stewart of Wredenburgh; Robert Donald Thrash of Butler; James Harold Weeks of Atlanta, GA, and Rufus Horace Weeks of Stone Mountain, GA.

### 1960's

Terry Sellers Jr. '60 (BS), '61 (MF) is a Professor at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. He received his Ph.D. in 1993 from the University of Tokyo in Japan. In addition to his work as a Research Scientist on wood composites and wood adhesives, he is contributing writer for Panel World magazine and was the 1997 Co-Chair of a symposium at the 5th North American Chemical Congress. He was also the recipient of Shell Oil Company's Westhollow Technology Center Team Excellence Award.

### 1970's

William Douglas Bryant '77 (BS) is currently employed by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ in Montgomery as a Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer.

Chuck Cannon '70 (BS) has been named Director of Business Development for Mikron Industries, Inc. of Kent, WA. He joins Mikron from Contact Lumber Company of Portland, OR, where for 20 years he held several key management positions.

Walter E. Cartwright '74 (BS) lives in Greenville with his wife of 17 years, Kathryn, and their 15-year-old son Kevin. For the past nine years he has been employed with the State of Alabama. He is currently serving a dual role as Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Project Coordinator and Chief of the Non-Fuel Mining Section for the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations in Montgomery.

Phillip Gordon Wall '77 (BS) is currently employed as Water Reclamation Plant operator at Camp Pendleton Marine Base in California. He was married to Carol Jean Reid on September 26, 1997.

### 1980's

Nancy J. Stumpff Loewenstein '82 (BS) completed her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri in 1996 and is currently serving there as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the area of physiological ecology research. She and her husband, Edward E. Loewenstein '92, have a daughter, Rachel Marie, born on May 27, 1998.

Jonathan D. Parker '83 (BS) is the owner of Southern Select Forestry Service Inc. in Newman, GA. In addition to acting as a dealer and supplier, his company specializes in timber harvesting and forest management.

Fred W. Whitaker '87 (BS) was promoted from Wood Procurement Manager at the East Kentucky Truss Joist MacMillan plant to the corporate office in Atlanta, GA. He is currently serving as the Wood Procurement Coordinator over all TJM wood procurement operations.

### 1990's

Tim Albritton '95 (BS) is Forestry Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Field Supervisor for the Alabama Forestry Commission in Montgomery.

Ray Colvin '97 (MF) has been named Inventory Technician for Gulf States Paper Corporation's Timber Marketing Department. He is located at the company's national headquarters in Tuscaloosa.

Brett Ezelle '97 (BS) is working as a Forester doing Forest Management Consulting for Carlson Land Services in Montgomery.

John Lange '94 (MF) is working for Timberland Harvesters in Eufaula as a Forester. He was married to Ami C. Jackson '97 on April 18, 1998.

Edward E. Loewenstein '92 (MS) lives in Missouri with his wife of seven years, Nancy J. Stumpff Loewenstein '91, and their daughter Rachel Marie, born May 27, 1998. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri in 1996 and is currently a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service in Columbia, MO.

### Attention E-Mail Users

Are you on-line? Do you like to communicate through e-mail? If so, then join our forestry on-line mailing list. This will allow us to keep in touch with you electronically, in addition to our traditional mailings. We'll send you all the "late-breaking" news. To join our mailing list simply e-mail your name and telephone number to Elizabeth Lanier at [lanier@forestry.auburn.edu](mailto:lanier@forestry.auburn.edu) with the subject "Forestry Alumni E-Mail."

## IN MEMORY OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

**Thomas Loudon Blake '74** passed away September 17, 1998, at the age of 54. Blake, a Macon, Georgia native, was a U.S. Air Force Veteran of the Korean War, an Auburn University graduate, and a Registered Forester in Alabama. After earning a degree in Forest Management, he settled in Auburn where he worked as a Consulting Forester.

**Virginia Elizabeth Crouch '97** passed away December 5, 1997 at the age of 27. Ms. Crouch, a native of Arlington, Virginia, was the 1995-96 recipient of the James Floyd Goggans Forest Biology Fellowship. Before attending graduate school, where she earned an M.S. in Forest Ecology, Ms. Crouch worked for The Nature Conservancy.

**Robert Wilson "Bob" Gay '40** passed away August 27, 1998, at the age of 81. A native of Chambers County, Gay was a World War II Veteran, the Chambers County commissioner from 1960 to 1977, and head of on-the-farm training for veterans in Randolph County. He was an active conservationist who served on the boards of the state, Piedmont, and Chambers County Soil and Water Conservation districts, and was district supervisor of the Coushatta Valley RC&D. He received many awards including the Special Service Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts. He was also a member of the State Line Hunting Club and an active member of the Standing Rock Methodist Church. Gay graduated from Auburn with a degree in Agricultural Science—a predecessor of today's Forestry degree. In 1940, he donated his family's antique farming equipment, including a syrup mill and a blacksmith shop, to create a museum at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center.

**Robert A. "Bob" Mayfield '63** passed away September 17, 1998, at the age of 38. Mayfield, a native of north Alabama, held a degree in Forest Management. He resided in Butler, and owned Mayfield Timber Company in Toxey. Mayfield was a strong supporter of his community and was often known to help personally finance activities that would benefit his fellow citizens in Choctaw County.

**Sam Ross Murphy** passed away May 17, 1998, at the age of 83. Murphy was a native of Abbeville and attended Auburn from 1934 to 1935. When budget cuts caused by the Depression temporarily closed the university's forestry program, he transferred to the University of Georgia earning a forestry degree in 1938. Following graduation, he moved to Jasper to work with the Alabama Forestry Commission as the only technically trained forester north of Montgomery and attained the rank of district forester in 1941. Shortly after, Murphy was called to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II where he participated in the Normandy invasion. After being honorably discharged as a lieutenant colonel in 1946, he returned to Jasper and started Murphy Manufacturing that same year. The business thrived and continues today to be one of the major suppliers of cedar wardrobes, chests, and bedroom furniture in the nation. Murphy was a widely recognized forester, conservationist, and outdoorsman. During his life, however, few

realized the depth of his dedication and generosity to these causes which included the donated use, nearly 30 years ago, of 17,000 wooded acres to the state of Alabama to help establish the LaMarion Wildlife Management Area. On October 13, 1998, this area was renamed the Sam Ross Murphy Wildlife Management Area in his memory. He was also active in First Christian Church and had memberships in numerous forestry related organizations including the Society of American Foresters. Among his many honors were the W. Kelley Mosley Environmental Award and the Alabama Wildlife Federation Award, both in 1989. He was a strong supporter of wildlife and forestry to the end of his life.

### FORESTRY LOSES LONGTIME FRIEND

The School of Forestry lost a special friend this year when Thelma Dixon died at her home on February 23. She was 90.

Mrs. Dixon, a South Alabama native, was a central member of the philanthropic Dixon family known throughout the state for its generous contributions to education and other deserving causes.

For more than half a century the Dixon family has shared their prosperity — achieved through timber, cattle, farming, and other investments — with the state of Alabama. Although Mrs. Dixon never attended Auburn, her foundation has been a major contributor to the university, particularly to the School of Forestry. She, along with her husband Charles and two other family members — Solon and Martha Dixon — were among the largest contributors to the school.

Mrs. Dixon is special to forestry not only for her financial contributions but for her long-term support of issues such as progressive forest and land management, and wildlife conservation. It is at her insistence that the family land holdings continue to be managed with good land stewardship and sound conservation practices. In fact, the family still leases hunting rights to land and practices high standards of land use and wildlife management, employing two full-time foresters and using long-rotation (30 years or more) timber management to preserve watershed/water course areas, upland hardwoods, and river bottomlands. Mrs. Dixon also supported forestry through her memberships in the Forest Landowners Association, the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and the Forest Farmers Association.

Although Mrs. Dixon is no longer with us, she will live on in the hearts of those who have and will benefit from her generosity. Her legacy will continue to touch not only forestry but all facets of Alabama life for generations to come.



Thelma Dixon

## Summer Camp Traditions

Whenever a group of Auburn foresters gets together, the conversation inevitably turns to memories of summer camp. Tales of hot, grueling days in the field under taskmasters such as Prof. Chris, Dr. Death and Leafy are remembered with much fondness and humor. Some even acknowledge a degree of appreciation for Dr. DeBrunner's Blue Bird Bus tours with no air conditioning and armory cement floors to sleep on.

Today we have given summer camp a new name, Summer Practicum. Yet, most of us still refer to it by its old name. We have just completed the nineteenth summer camp at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center where students have such luxuries as air-conditioned dorms and classrooms and hot showers, at least most of the time. However, it is still hot in the field and the current taskmasters like to think that they are as demanding as those of the past. Although many forestry programs across the nation have eliminated summer camp, the Auburn forestry faculty feel this field experience is an essential prerequisite to theoretical forestry courses taught on campus and is key to our graduates obtaining their first job.

FY 302, Introduction to Forest Biology, taught by Dean Gjerstad, Scott Enehak, and Dale Pancake is an example of a course at today's summer camp. This two-credit course is taught over an eight day period with a different forest biology topic presented each day. Daily topics include tree growth and development, pests and vegetation management, forest soils, ecosystem gradients, regeneration and genetics, wetlands, and longleaf ecosystems. In addition, Dale Pancake teaches dendrology where students are required to learn 60 woody species common to the Dixon Center. Students are also required to learn 200 glossary terms as a means of introducing them to the language of forestry. Our daily routine involves beginning each morning with a quiz over the previous day's material followed by a dendrology quiz and the introduction of 10 to 15 new tree species. An hour lecture is then given followed by a related field laboratory exercise.

For most students, the first day's laboratory is particularly notable. It involves conducting a stem and biomass analysis on a 50-foot loblolly pine tree. We provide the students with a rather dull bow saw to cut down the tree and section it into designated lengths. Various stem and growth rings measurements are then taken followed by weighing the bole, the dead and live branches, and the leaves. Separating leaves from branches is a process that can take several hours for a tree this size. A common student comment is, "I cannot believe that I came to college to learn how to pluck pine needles." However, our goal is for the student to closely examine a tree, its parts and in the process gain a sense of what a tree looks, feels, and even tastes like. The data gathered in the field is then used to develop several charts and figures that are used in writing a laboratory report. Many hours are spent over the next day or so in analyzing and interpreting the data and writing the report. The written report is challenging for most students as this is their first forestry laboratory exercise at Auburn and most seem to believe

that neither logic, grammar, nor spelling are important writing attributes. However, most students begin to realize this when they receive a low score and are rewriting the report a few days later.

Each following day mimics the first with more quizzes, new trees in dendrology, more glossary terms, lectures, and field labs. Students work into the wee hours of the night memorizing terms, writing reports, and studying for the next day's quiz. Most students are up at the crack of dawn to participate in dendrology walks with the teaching assistants. For the students and faculty, days and nights begin to run together into a blur of activity.

Another notable laboratory is forest soils where each crew digs a 1-cubic-meter soil pit. Some have the good fortune of being designated a sandy site while others are located over bedrock. This year was particularly challenging due to the extended drought at the Center that resulted in the soil being the consistency of concrete. Even the best crews had difficulty reaching the 1-meter depth while most were spent at 0.5-meter. Most students are surprised to see just how big a pile 1-cubic-meter of soil makes.

Without question, the highlight each year is the forested wetlands field trip, affectionately referred to as the "Swamp Walk", led by guest lecturer Dr. Kathryn Flynn. Each class comes to this exercise with much trepidation as previous classes enjoy passing on horror stories about the abundance of snakes and alligators and the depth of the water. The laboratory is designed to demonstrate the function and value of different forested wetland types. It also demonstrates to future timber cruisers that one can actually enter a swamp and survive. The day begins with visits to various shallow wetlands with just enough water to wet our feet. We gradually progress until we reach the ultimate, a shrub bog named Bear Bay. Bear Bay is actually a water and muck slurry about the consistency and color of a chocolate milk shake. At its greatest depth, about 4.5 feet, our shorter students do feel challenged although shrubs do line the entire path. Although most students dreaded the idea of the Swamp Walk, most have very fond memories of it after it is over. Likely due to the vociferous outcries from the students, we have never seen a snake, alligator or other swamp critter.

This course is challenging to most students because of the input of long days and nights to finish the laboratory reports and be prepared for the various quizzes. Although we do hear grumbling about the work load required for a two-credit course, most students enjoy the opportunity to finally be involved in a course in their major field. Each year it is most gratifying to hear several students comment, "I have learned more in the last eight days than I learned in my previous two years in college." And a final word to those of you who attended summer camps of yesteryear under the tutelage of Prof. Chris, Dr. DeBrunner and others, we are working hard to keep up the tradition.

Dean Gjerstad  
Professor, Forest Biology  
School of Forestry

Scott Enehak  
Assistant Professor, Forest Pathology  
School of Forest

## FORESTRY'S FIELD OF DREAMS

If the longest journey begins with a single step, then a long-term research project begins with a single idea. In this case the idea is to find ways to enhance tree growth.

For about three years Auburn forestry researchers, along with the International Paper Company, have been working to determine how fast trees can be grown if assisted, and what kinds of growth enhancement programs are best. The research is being conducted on an experimental 10-acre plot in Bainbridge, GA which is affectionately referred to as "The Field of Dreams."

We have been using various cultural treatments for the past three years to see how far we can push productivity. Our research is to better understand the mechanisms behind productivity. A series of things can occur to maximize growth, and it varies among species.

Pines and sweetgum were selected because of their economic value to the wood products industry. Growth rates are measured by examining height and diameter progress of trees planted as seedlings. However, leaf physiology is one of the most important growth aspects studied in this research.

Scientists don't fully understand the mechanisms behind fertilizer response. In addition to traditional height and diameter measurements, we take measurements of net photosynthesis.

We are looking at such things as leaf carbon gain versus total leaf area. We want to know if trees are photosynthesizing more or, are they just making more leaves. Findings already show significant growth enhancement in response to liquid fertilization.

We have found that fertigation tripled biomass of sweetgum and doubled biomass of pine after three years of treatment. Maximum productivity was a function of greater leaf area accumulation.

The experiments are planned to continue through five years, providing the forest industry with more information for their timber management programs.

Lisa Samuelson  
Associate Professor, Tree Physiology  
School of Forestry

## SEMINAR SERIES ADDRESSES FORESTRY ISSUES

Earlier this year, faculty from the Auburn University School of Forestry, the Auburn University Department of Zoology and Wildlife and Tuskegee Institute participated in two regional Landowner Seminar Series entitled "Managing Your Forest Resources to Achieve Your Objectives". Each seminar series, held at the Alabama Southern Community College campuses in Thomasville and Monroeville, involved three evening sessions. These programs took place during May and June 1998. The sessions were designed to provide landowners with current information on managing forest resources. Speakers included both Extension and non-Extension faculty. The programs, coordinated by the Center for Forestry, Paper and Chemical Technology, were attended by approximately 70 people.

Topics covered during the three sessions included: How to Develop a Management Plan; The Economic Risks and Returns of Owning a Forest; The Environmental Aspects of Owning a Forest; The Forest Products Industry; Landowner Assistance Programs; Site Productivity and How it is Measured; Natural and Artificial Reforestation; Issues Related to Absentee Land Ownership; Forest Insects; Wildlife Management; Intermediate Stand Management for Timber Production; Timber Markering, and Timber Harvesting. Participants received a notebook containing publications relevant to each topic.

A final seminar series will be conducted in September. This one will involve a slightly different approach. The speakers, including a representative from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, will deliver the program from the Aerospace Engineering Building on the Auburn University campus via compressed video. This technology is similar to a teleconference in that attendees at the 11 locations outside Auburn will be able to interact with the speakers as the program is taking place. This approach will allow delivery of the program to people in Gadsden, Eufaula, Birmingham, Brewton, Mobile, Alexander City, Inscalosa, Florence, Auburn, Monroeville, and Thomasville. Participants will receive copies of all presentations and an order form containing a list of available publications relevant to each topic.

Kathryn Flynn  
Associate Professor/Extension Specialist  
School of Forestry

## STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS 1998 FORESTRY AWARDS BANQUET

Each year the Forestry Club hosts an awards banquet to honor outstanding faculty, hard working students, gracious scholarship donors and dear friends of the School of Forestry. This year, the banquet was held on May 21 at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center. A wonderful turnout of faculty, students, and guests made this year's banquet the largest to date. Among the special attendees were President and Mrs. Muse, as well as Dr. and Mrs. Parks.

This year was also special because it marked the end of an era for the honorable Dean Emmett Thompson and, the beginning of one for Dean Richard Brinker. The Forestry Club would like to thank Dean Thompson for being so patient with us and so accessible when we needed him. We would also like to wish Dean Brinker the best of luck on his new endeavor. We know he will make an excellent dean.

The celebration began with a delicious dinner, after which the awards ceremony commenced. Awards were given to Dean Thompson as a fond farewell and to Dean Brinker as a welcome into his well-earned position. Dr. Scott Enebach received the award for teacher of the year. Numerous awards were given for those who represented Auburn at this year's Conclave. The new scholarship recipients were announced and the old ones congratulated. The evening ended with the traditional passing of the gavel from the current Forestry Club President Rick Schober, to Matt Whitley the 1998-99 president.

Six new scholarships were added to the School of Forestry in the 1997 calendar year. Each new scholarship increases our opportunity for deserving students to seek assistance with the cost of college, and we greatly appreciate those who made this new endowment possible. The new scholarships include: the Burgin Companies' Endowed Scholarship, the James H. Dukes, Jr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship, the Nichols Family Endowed Scholarship, the W. Earl Hughes Annual Memorial Scholarship, the William F. Sahlte Endowed Memorial Scholarship, and the William Frank and Mary Claire Walburn Endowed Scholarship.

As a final note, the Forestry Club would like to give a sincere thank you to Mrs. Lane Messer and Miss Jayme Sellers for the long hours they spent preparing for this grand event. Their help was instrumental in both the banquet's beauty and its success.



Lisa Hinkel Love (r) presenting Mark Elder (l) the Association of Consulting Foresters Senior Leadership Award



Lisa Samuelson (l) presenting Scott Davis Jr. (r) with the Fort James Corporation Forest Measurements Award

Danielle M. Berchin '98  
Social Chairman  
Auburn Forestry Club



Dean Richard Brinker (l) presenting Price McLemore III (r) with the Alabama Division, Society of American Foresters Junior Leadership Award



Charles McMahon (r) presenting Cory Martin (l) U.S.D.A. Forest Service Science Award



Matt Harne (r) presents the Teacher of the Year Award to Scott Enebach (l)



Rick Schober (l) with Retired Dean Emmett Thompson (r)

## SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS AWARDS BANQUET



Billy W. McIntyre (r) presenting Jayne Sellers (l) with the MacMillan Bloedel, Inc. Forest Economics Award.

### 1997/1998 Scholarship Recipients.

- Charles Dixon Memorial Scholarships
- Christy/DeBrunner/Posey Memorial Scholarship
- Garden Club of Alabama Forestry Conservation Scholarship
- Steve Jackson Memorial Scholarships

Travis Gardner  
Brian Hobbs  
Matthew Veal  
Matthew Whitley

James Parker  
Fred Prawins  
Sarah Day  
Mark Elder  
Tyson Fountain  
Michael Heath

- E.A. Hauss Forestry Scholarships

Chandler Graham  
Wesley McCollum  
Darren McGilberry  
Donny Milam  
Jeremy Ramsey  
Joshua Ramsey  
Jason Robison  
Rick Schober  
Cory Trawick  
Allen Wilkinson

- Watters Family Scholarships

Cory Martin  
George Sims

- Noll A. Van Cleave Scholarship

Anna Reid

- Summer Practicum Stipend Scholarship
- Dwain G. Luce Family Endowed Scholarship
- Rose Eugene Atchison Endowed Scholarship
- L.M. and Mary Ware Forestry Scholarship
- James M. Wells Sr., Memorial Scholarship
- Russell Lands Scholarship
- Frank W. Boykin Scholarship
- Henry and Elizabeth Posey Scholarship

LeAnna Melton  
Victoria Reeves  
Dantelle Berchlin  
Jeremy Goss  
Price McLenore III  
LeAnna Melton  
Charles Reynolds  
Jeremy Zills

### Student Achievement Awards

- Fort James Corporation Forest Measurements Award
- MacMillan Bloedel, Inc. Forest Economics Award
- Alabama Division, SAF Junior Leadership Award
- Forestry Alumni Association, Outstanding Senior Award in Academics

Scott Davis Jr.  
Jayne Sellers  
Price McLenore II  
Rick Schober

- U.S.D.A. Forest Service Science Award
- Association of Consulting Foresters Senior Leadership Award
- James Floyd Goggans Fellowship in Forest Biology

Keith Cox  
Mark Elder  
Jennifer Vonderwell



David South (r) and Mrs. Floyd Goggans (l) presenting Jennifer Vonderwell (c) the James Floyd Goggans Fellowship in Forest Biology.

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Greetings to our Alumni and Friends from an old face at a new post. As a former dean, I understand the need for private support for the school. Therefore, when I retired, I agreed to chair the School's Development Committee to assist in this effort. In addition, I find great personal satisfaction in knowing I can still serve the school and promote its mission.

The goal of the 1998 Development Committee is to increase annual giving by \$35,000 for a total school goal of \$125,000. I am pleased that John Gebber, Stevie Guy, Don Heath, Dwain Luce, Greg Luce, Jim Martin, Jim Spears, Claude Swift, Charley Tarver, Rick Schober, and Cory Martin are helping with this effort by serving as members of the Development Committee.

The Development Committee began the format of raising annual support under Charley Tarver's leadership in 1996. Charley did an excellent job coordinating this effort of using volunteers to solicit multi-year annual gifts. Wil Miller, AU's Assistant Vice President for Development, has said the School of Forestry's Development Committee is a model for other schools and colleges. Because of the work of our volunteers in annual giving, our Development Officer, Angie Stephens, can concentrate primarily on major gifts for the school.

The school has been fruitful in both areas. Through the efforts of the Development Committee, \$242,000 has been secured in both annual gifts and pledges to be paid over the next several years. The most incredible part of this is that nearly half of the annual gifts have come from individuals or companies that have never given to the School of Forestry in the past.

Our major gifts program has continued to grow over the

past three years. Commitments of note include:

- An addition of 14 scholarships to benefit our students
- Significant growth in the Endowment for Excellence in Forest Policy
- A commitment of approximately \$15 million through donor bequests
- An outdoor auditorium is under construction at the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve just north of Auburn. When it is completed the school will conduct educational programs in this architecturally intriguing facility.

As you know, the School of Forestry relies on state appropriations for its base funding. Because of this, it is essential that our graduates and constituents voice their support for Auburn's forestry programs for the Agriculture Economic Bond Issue in the November 3 election. If this passes, the Auburn School of Forestry will receive \$7 million toward construction of a much needed new forestry building.

Together, we have made significant progress. We must continue, however, to solicit additional private support. Public funding for higher education is becoming more and more difficult to obtain, both in Alabama and throughout the country. The forestry schools that rise to the top will be those that most successfully supplement public funding with private support. Forestry is Alabama's leading industry. Auburn's forestry school should be at a similar level among its peers. With your continuing help, we can make that goal a reality.

Emmett Thompson  
Chairman  
Development Committee

## THE HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

The School of Forestry thanks the following alumni and friends who have supported us with their contributions. Private funding enables us to continue our outstanding tradition of Forestry education.

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If we can be of assistance in helping you determine the best way to meet your objectives while helping the School of Forestry, please contact Angie Stephens at (334) 844-2791.

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 Mr. Kenneth Lewis Oser '81  
 Mr. James Everett Owens '85  
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 Mr. James Arthur Palmer  
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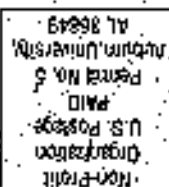
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 Resource Management Service  
 Mr. Whitfield M. Rew '37  
 Mr. James E. Reynolds Sr. '46  
 Mr. John Ronald Rice '69  
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 Mr. Alan Eugene Roberts '85  
 Mr. T. D. Roberts  
 Mr. William A. Rogers Jr. '54  
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 Seaman Timber Company  
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