



School of Renewable Natural Resources

Newsletter
Fall 2005

Managing resources and protecting the environment . . . making a difference in the 21st century



Protecting Louisiana's Coastal Wetland Forests: *Whose job is it?*

The LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources plays an important role in protecting and conserving Louisiana's coastal wetland forests for future generations. Large-scale efforts to protect and restore coastal wetlands and the concurrent renewal of forest harvesting in cypress-tupelo swamps have brought new attention to Louisiana's coastal wetland forests.

Our understanding of these coastal wetland forests has been limited by inadequate data and the lack of a comprehensive review of existing information. The importance of these forests is now being recognized; the loss and degradation of the ecosystem functions and services provided by Louisiana's coastal wetland forests are significant.

Because Louisiana's coastal wetland forests are of tremendous economic, ecological, cultural and recreational value to Louisiana, the country and the world, the Louisiana Governor's office commissioned a Science Working Group (SWG) to examine these forests and make recommendations for their conservation, protection and use. The Science Working Group is composed of 12 scientists with considerable experience related to wetland forests, their ecology and the problems they face. Several of the members, including the chair, are RNR faculty. An advisory panel to the Science Working Group was also established. The panel is a diverse group of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and landowners. The Advisory Panel will provide input to the Governor's office related to the Science Working Group's recommendations.

Various groups and the general public can do much to help ensure the sustainability of these forests. The SWG hopes that everyone will get involved in the protection and conservation of our valuable and vulnerable forest ecosystem.

What can be done to conserve and protect our coastal wetland forests?

What the State Can Do

The SWG on Coastal Wetland Forest Conservation and Use made recommendations to the Governor's Office about actions the state could take to conserve and protect these forests. Details of the recommendations by the SWG can be found at www.coastalforestswg.lsu.edu. In general terms, the SWG recommended:

- Place priority on conserving, restoring and managing these coastal wetland forests.

- Recognize the set of condition classes that the SWG outlined relative to regeneration ability of specific sites.

- Place priority on maintaining the hydrological regime of the most productive sites and avoid loss of the more sensitive sites, including placement of a delay in harvesting those sites not likely to regenerate until conditions are changed.

- Help to ensure proper management and regeneration through recommendations on written forest management plans with specifics on regeneration.

- Develop spatially explicit database and long-term monitoring efforts with regular updating to guide management.

- Recognize an expanded area of coastal forests.

- Ensure that all agencies and organizations share and coordinate information, develop practices to prevent coastal forest loss and actively pursue restoration of degraded forests.

- Enhance ecosystem functions through hydrological management decisions related to construction and other activities in wetland areas.

What Professional Foresters Can Do

It is the inherent responsibility of all professional foresters to ensure forest sustainability and strive to meet landowners' objectives. Professional foresters can do much to conserve and protect Louisiana's coastal wetland forests and act in the long-term best interest of landowners, including:

- Recommend harvesting of healthy forest areas only when the forest stand can readily be regenerated, leading to long-term establishment of stands that will maintain sustainable productivity into the next generation of forests.

- Create written forest management plans that are explicit about how management will be sustainable and how regeneration and long-term wetland forest establishment will be guaranteed.

- Indicate what necessary and feasible alterations to site hydrological regime may help ensure future productivity.

- Explore alternative revenues or management options for sites not likely to regenerate and become established.

- Work with scientists to develop more reliable regeneration for a range of difficult site conditions.

- Apply the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, therefore helping to protect and conserve these forests for landowners, citizens and future generations.



Vulnerable coastal wetland cypress-tupelo forest

What Research Scientists Can Do

Research in Louisiana's coastal forest has not kept pace with past problems, much less those that are now upon us. We have not always appreciated the importance of our coast and have not understood the many functions and services it provides. We are only now beginning to see the worth of coastal wetland forests and will continue to increase our understanding of their values and importance through new and expanding research. Detailed numbers of coastal wetland forest acreage and the condition of these forests are still not available. Some coastal forests are rapidly disappearing, and many others are degrading. We know some cannot regenerate and become established, if harvested. Research scientists can help ensure the future of these forests in a number of ways.

- Continue to reveal and interpret the data that exists.
- Establish new research related to the effects of hydrologic regime and soils on the growth and productivity of these forests, both young and old.
- Establish research to provide better data on seedling and coppice regeneration and stand establishment under a variety of site conditions and harvesting regimes. This research may also help establish new methods of regeneration for difficult sites.
- Discern new methods of evaluating and mapping condition classes and forest health both on the ground and by remote sensing techniques.
- Evaluate what the public knows and how much they are interested in conserving and protecting these forests.
- Conduct additional research in coastal forests to understand the important links to other functions and services that are crucial to wildlife, fisheries, clean water and coastal processes.
- Investigate conservation alternatives acceptable to forest landowners, including set-asides, easements and sale of timber rights.

What Coastal Forest Landowners Can Do

Perhaps the most important and crucial key to protecting, conserving and continuing to use Louisiana's coastal wetland forests lies with the landowners and their families. They have a great personal connection to these lands, and they hold the public's many values of these lands in their hands. Coastal forest landowners can do much to see that these lands are protected and conserved if they:

- Recognize the serious nature of the problem.
- Ensure that proper forest management techniques are used on lands that can be regenerated on a sustainable basis and that regeneration occurs. Application of BMPs (best management practices) help reduce non-point source pollution in waterways but have little to do with proper stand management and regeneration.
- Demand to know the correct state of their lands and the condition they are in relative to regeneration.
- Work with the state and others to further restoration efforts and regain productivity on hydrologically degraded lands.
- Be willing, if necessary, to temporarily forgo timber harvesting on those portions of their land that will not regenerate and become established under current conditions.
- Insist that professional foresters provide a written management plan that details how their lands will be regenerated after harvest and how a new forest of equal or better productivity will be established. Get a second independent opinion when their lands are frequently flooded for long periods, especially during the growing season.
- Provide research scientists with information on flood frequency, flood depth and changes of forest conditions over time. Allow land access for research.
- Look for alternative income sources (instead of timber harvests in coastal forests).
- Consider placing lands in a "forest reserve" system or some other category of compensation, if developed by the state.
- Consider donating land to a conservation organization that will provide protection and allow owner to reap tax benefits.

What Everyone Can Do

- Recognize the serious nature of the problem with Louisiana's coastal wetland forests.
- Contact federal and state senators and representatives, as well as local officials, about helping to save existing and restore degraded coastal wetland forests in Louisiana.
- Recognize that we can continue to conserve and protect these resources only for those coastal forests that are sustainable.
- Voice your support for efforts to conserve and protect these forests in surveys of opinion and to the news media, friends and co-workers.

Director's Comments

As you all know, Bob Blackmon retired June 30, and he and Mary Beth have made the long journey to eastern New York. We thank Bob for all of his efforts on behalf of the School and wish them a long and wonderful retirement. We will miss Bob and his leadership; he was a unique individual dedicated to the sustainable use of our renewable resources, and he brought a tremendous amount of energy and critical thought to his role as director. He truly moved the School forward during his tenure, and his contributions to our teaching, research and extension activities will serve the faculty, staff and students in the School of Renewable Natural Resources well into the future.

One of my first official duties is to continue Bob Blackmon's emphasis on conveying the good things that are going on in the School. We will greet several incoming freshmen and transfer students in the fall, particularly in wildlife, with many individuals interested in our Pre-Vet Wildlife area of concentration. In this area, students complete three years of study in the School and, upon acceptance into the Vet School, their first year of Vet School courses satisfies the requirements for a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management. We remain committed to our recruiting efforts. The continued health of our undergraduate degrees depends on attracting new students.

In a larger context, the world's renewable resources continue to experience a diversity of problems related to pollution, over-exploitation, climate change, exotic species introductions, human population growth, increasing urbanization, diverging social values and changing conditions in the world economy. There will be a tremendous turnover in personnel in state and federal resource agencies in the next decade, and the continued productivity

of our natural resource base will depend on management solutions developed by innovative, broadly educated professionals with exceptional critical thinking and communications skills. We will continue to emphasize these areas as we revise curricula.

The final report by the Governor's Science Working Group on Coastal Forests continues to be the focus of attention in the Governor's office and around the state. School representatives on this panel included Jim Chambers (Chair), Melinda Hughes, Richard Keim, Sammy King, Craig Miller and Andy Nyman, and they did a tremendous amount of work putting this report together. Much remains to be done to implement fair management policies that will ensure the economic productivity as well as the sustainability of these forests, which are a critical part of many of Louisiana's coastal ecosystems. I hope faculty will continue to be called upon to make research and policy contributions to the state's efforts to manage and protect these important resources.

The diversity and productivity of research efforts in the School continue to be a testament to the hard work by the faculty, research associates, students and staff. We enjoy a tremendous amount of success in attracting grants and

contracts to support our research efforts, which are focused throughout the state from coastal marshes to upland forests and include all of our renewable resources and the habitats that support them. I encourage you to log on to www.rnr.lsu.edu and peruse the research being done. It is impressive indeed.

We continue to be active in the extension arena, as well, and have recently added Neils deHoop to our extension faculty, which includes Rich Vlosky, Hallie Dozier, Todd Shupe and Leroy Shilling. All workshops and other activities developed by these faculty members are well attended and well received. Information transfer to natural resource managers, user groups and young adults is an extremely important part of most of the activities in the AgCenter, and our School is making important contributions to this effort.

As the interim director, one of my primary goals is to make sure we find the best possible person to assume leadership. We need input from faculty, alumni, advisory council members, and state and federal agencies as we progress through this process, and I encourage all of you to contact me with suggestions to help us identify this individual.

Bill Kelso, Interim Director



Bill Kelso, Interim Director

Dr. Bob Blackmon, “Making a Difference”

On June 30, Dr. Bob Blackmon retired after serving as the director of the School of Renewable Natural Resources since 2000. The School is greatly indebted to Dr. Blackmon for his vision and leadership, and he has truly made a difference as he helped move the School forward in its quest for continued prominence in natural resource research, teaching and extension.

He accomplished many things during his tenure, all of which have helped move the School forward. One of his most important accomplishments was changing the school’s name from the School of Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries to the School of Renewable Natural Resources, which better reflects the teaching, research and extension efforts of faculty. In addition, the School now has a new degree program, core curriculum and several areas of concentration to better prepare students for the diverse problems they will face during their careers. Both of these changes were major undertakings and required much planning and critical thinking to develop. Having the foresight to address such issues, Bob developed an excellent advisory committee that has been both instrumental and helpful in developing plans for the future of the School.

Dr. Blackmon enhanced and reinforced the school’s visibility through its Web page, student recruiting efforts and professional meeting contacts. He helped initiate a multi-university cooperative to study terrestrial-aquatic linkages in forested ecosystems and initiated the planning for a new research unit tentatively called the Center for Studies in Freshwater Wetland Landscapes. Bob hired eight new faculty members, once again allowing the School to broaden its research, teaching and extension efforts. He was also responsible for the development of five endowments for professorships and scholarships:



The Blackmons and Boethels pause for a photo at the retirement reception.

■ The Weaver Brothers Professorship in Forestry, held by Dr. Jim Chambers

■ The F.O. Bateman Professorship in Natural Resources, held by Dr. Bill Kelso

■ The Bryant Bateman Professorship in Natural Resources, held by Dr. Allen Rutherford

■ The Roy O. Martin, Sr. Professorship in Composite and Engineered Wood Products, held by Dr. Qinglin Wu

■ The George William Barineau, Jr. Professorship in Wildlife Ecology, held by Dr. Frank Rohwer

Scholarships and other endowment funds include:

■ The Hoffpauer Award for Graduate Students

■ The Ellis C. Magee Forestry Scholarship

■ The Norwin Linnartz Memorial Scholarship (held by the Louisiana Forestry Foundation)

■ The Elvin Choong Memorial Lecture Series

■ The Ben and Pauline Stanley Excellence Fund

■ The Graphic Packaging Forest Sustainability Fund

The School of Renewable Natural Resources thanks Dr. Blackmon for indeed making a difference. Best wishes to both Bob and Mary Beth in their new endeavors.

Life is a series of stages, and I am looking forward to the stage that will give me more control of my own schedule. My plans include hiking and cross-country skiing in the Adirondacks, the Catskills and the Berkshires, some kayaking, some biking, an occasional play in New York City, a little travel, perhaps some violin lessons and a lot of painting. I will do some volunteer work for progressive causes, perhaps a little work for pay (depending on stock market performance) and read all those books I have been adding to my to-read list.

By the end of the summer of 2005 Mary Beth and I will be settled into our home on the east bank of the Hudson in Troy, N.Y., a suburb of New York’s capital city, Albany. In our new house I will have my own studio, and from its window (facing southwest), I can see the Helderberg Mountains (a sub-range of the Catskills). Mentally, I will be able to see Baton Rouge, some 1,500 miles beyond, and I will think of all of you often.

Bob Blackmon

Research Notes

Coastal Forests: The School of RNR is playing an important role in working to protect and conserve Louisiana's coastal wetland forests. Because of their importance, the Louisiana's Louisiana Governor's office commissioned a Science Working Group to examine these forests and make recommendations for their conservation, protection and use. The group was composed of 12 scientists with experience related to the ecology and management of wetland forests.

In addition to the final report (www.coastalforestswg.lsu.edu), the group has presented at five conferences and several public meetings. Conferences include: the 13th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference, Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Symposium, and the Environmental State of the State Annual Conference. Members of the Science Working Group include: J.L. Chambers, R.F. Keim, M.S. Hughes, E.S. Gardiner, W.H. Conner, J.W. Day Jr., S.P. Faulkner, S.L. King, K.W. McLeod, C.A. Miller, J.A. Nyman, and G.P. Shaffer.

Forest Nutrient Dynamics: Dr. Tom Dean was awarded funding from the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station for a long-term study titled "Nutrient supply and demand: relationship to long-term soil productivity, silviculture and forest floor management." Other investigators on the project include D.A. Scott, M.A. Sword-Sayer, J.P. Barnett and R.A. Newbold.

Dr. Richard Keim's lab continues to focus on wetland hydrology and ecosystem interactions. Projects include a tree ring study to reconstruct baldcypress growth responses to hydrological conditions, with the goal of predicting how forested

wetlands will respond to ongoing changes in hydrology of coastal forests (Blake Amos), and a new effort to use field and satellite data to classify and map coastal wetland forest conditions (Jason Zoller). Research of wetland forest management, in collaboration with Drs. Jim Chambers and Tom Dean, includes assessment of baldcypress regeneration, plantation growth, thinning and stand productivity.

SRNR Natural Resource Symposium: Forests will continue to be an integral part of the landscape of Louisiana and the entire South, according to speakers at a conference sponsored by the LSU AgCenter's School of Renewable Natural Resources. More than 100 attended the symposium held in Baton Rouge in July, according to Dr. Todd Shupe, a conference organizer and faculty member. The conference focused on regulatory issues, conservation, sustainability and certification of forest lands. Several RNR faculty members were speakers.

Dr. Qinglin Wu was awarded funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents' Industrial Tie Program for developing extruded natural fiber polymer composites as advanced

engineering materials. The award consists of \$150,000 from the Board and \$60,000 from industry as match for a three-year period.

Dr. Niels deHoop and logger Travis Taylor of Goldonna received a grant from the USDA Forest Service, Woody Biomass Utilization Program, to analyze the profitability of a forest fuel reduction operation on the Winn Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest and to test the addition of equipment to the operation. Instead of costing the Forest Service hundreds of dollars per acre to reduce hazardous forest (fire) fuels, they hope to demonstrate that fuel reduction operations can be profitable. Taylor's chipping operation removes brush and small timber from pine stands to reduce the risk of catastrophic forest fires and to help the stand return to a native longleaf pine-bluestem ecosystem.

Slaughter Logging, LLC, (owned by Dennis Aucoin) and Travis Taylor Logging & Chipping are sponsoring a graduate assistantship in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. The student, under Dr. deHoop's guidance, will evaluate companies' productivity so they can minimize costs. New



Skidder operator Mike Hayden and Dr. deHoop review a skidding track on a GPS receiver.

techniques to measure machine productivity are being developed and tested, such as GPS units on skidders.

Dr. Quang Cao taught a workshop, “Timber Cruising — Point Sampling,” in July at Northwestern State University. It provided 5.5 hours of Category 1 CFE credits and was co-sponsored by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Forestry Association and Louisiana Society of American Foresters. The 15 foresters gave it excellent marks and suggested topics for future workshops.

Medicinal Plants: Dr. Zhijun Liu is the AgCenter partner with the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in an \$8 million grant to establish a national center of excellence studying the effects of botanical products on human health and diseases. The mission of the center will be to evaluate conditions in humans that lead to development of obesity and Type 2 diabetes, and to determine whether plant extracts can treat these conditions. The research team will study the effects of specific botanical compounds and their components on molecular and cellular processes associated with metabolic syndromes. Liu’s work focuses on a plant known as *Sinocrassula indica*.

Dr. Rich Vlosky, professor and director of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, completed a study titled “Identifying Employment Structure and Training Needs in the Louisiana Value-Added Wood Products Industry.” It was funded by the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Rural Development, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Department of Labor. Vlosky also teamed with Dr. Ramesh Kolluru and Dr. Mark Smith from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to receive an \$87,300 grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents to research Louisiana wood

products supply chain processes and determine improvements to improve the state’s competitive position in this sector.

Drs. Vlosky, Todd Shupe, associate professor, and Matt Fannin, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, received a \$27,500 grant from the Southern Forest Products Association to conduct an analysis of the U.S. pressure-treated wood industry.

Proposed Closed-loop Preservative-treated-wood Recycling System:

Nearly half of all southern yellow pine wood, including that produced in Louisiana, is treated with a preservative. Disposal of used or retired treated wood has increasingly become a major concern because the popular disposal options — burning or land filling — are becoming more costly and impractical because of regulatory requirements and environmental concerns. Recycling — both of treated wood and of the toxic preservatives — must be considered as a viable alternative.

The Louisiana Center for Treated Wood Recycling will be a premiere facility and the only center for recycling treated wood in the United States. It will be at the LSU AgCenter’s Calhoun Research Station and be a part of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center. It would build upon the existing synergism between the AgCenter and Louisiana Tech as well as cooperate with the Forest Service in Pineville and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and industry partners. The project is expected to create intellectual property and spin-off industries



Chris Cannaday and student worker Kendall Decateau conducting research to determine the effectiveness of a new wetland restoration technique at Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge.

in Louisiana. Funding will support scientists and support personnel along with the laboratory equipment, supplies and operating services necessary for carrying out the mission.

Drs. Bill Kelso and Allen Rutherford have begun a statewide stream project funded by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The goal is to assess relationships among resident fish assemblages, stream habitats and stream water quality characteristics. The research is designed to determine if there are identifiable relationships among fish community structure, dissolved oxygen and nutrients; if these relationships are consistent among years; and if appropriate metrics can be developed that describe fish community responses to low dissolved oxygen conditions and nutrients in Louisiana streams. This information is needed by LDEQ to implement statewide monitoring and mitigation programs for the state’s stream systems.

Dr. Sammy King received funds from the Louisiana Department of

Wildlife and Fisheries to attach satellite transmitters on wintering sandhill cranes in Louisiana. This study is part of an initial evaluation into the feasibility of restoring whooping cranes to South Louisiana by studying sandhill migration. It will help determine whether introduced whooping cranes will interact with the endangered population in Texas, as well as determine potential migration routes for introduced populations.

Dr. Megan La Peyre and Dr. Andy Nyman continue to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration techniques with funding from the Coastal Restoration Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Program and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Investigations focus on the responses of fishes, crustaceans and submerged aquatic vegetation to mitigation activities. Dr. Nyman also obtained funding from Ducks Unlimited to determine the effects of coastal

wetland restoration on waterfowl and wading birds. (Photo on page 7)

Dr. Mike Chamberlain is conducting a black bear research project that has expanded to include bears throughout three regions in Louisiana. The efforts to restore bears to the east-central part of the state continue as more females and their newborn cubs are relocated to state and federal lands in Avoyelles and Concordia parishes. Research focuses on bear population viability, in which female bears are trapped and radio-collared to evaluate survival and reproductive ecology. A project has begun in St. Mary and Iberia parishes to evaluate ways of preventing nuisance behavior in black bears. Specifically, two aversive conditioning techniques are being assessed on free-ranging nuisance bears to document their effects on bear behavior.

Dr. Philip Stouffer and his students have several new projects. Thanks to a State Wildlife Grant, they will expand their research with

Henslow's Sparrows to grasslands throughout the state. In collaboration with **Dr. Mike Chamberlain**, he will study how row spacing and treatment of coarse woody debris in Weyerhaeuser loblolly pine plantations affects breeding birds, small mammals and herps. He'll work with **Drs. Bill Kelso, Megan LaPeyre and Allen Rutherford** to sample freshwater and marine fishes and assess bald eagle and alligator populations in preparation for an Environmental Impact Statement to be developed for a proposed diversion from the Mississippi River into Lake Maurepas.



Dr. Mike Chamberlain with a male black bear captured on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Faculty News

Dr. Mike Chamberlain and Dr. Jun Xu have received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor. **Dr. Allen Rutherford**, the Bryant A. Bateman Distinguished Professor, also received tenure. All three professors are outstanding scholars who contribute significantly to teaching, research and administration. We congratulate them for the recognition of their accomplishments.

Dr. Tom Dean, professor in quantitative silviculture, is a coauthor on a paper that made the list of the top 10 downloaded articles from Forest Ecology and Management during the last calendar quarter. Considering the number of articles published by FEM, this is quite an accomplishment.

At the recent Society of Wood Science and Technology annual meeting, **Dr. Chi So**, postdoctoral research scientist, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC), received Honorable Mention in the 2005 George Marra Research Award that recognizes excellence in writing and research for papers published in the four quarterly issues of one volume of Wood and Fiber Science. Dr. So works with Dr. Todd Shupe, associate professor.

The 2005 International Society of Arboriculture Southern Chapter's 2005 Excellence in Arboricultural Research was awarded to **Dr. Hallie Dozier**. The Excellence in Arboricultural Education award also went to Dr. Dozier, Dr. Allen



Dr. Chi So, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center

Owings and Anthony Witcher from the Department of Horticulture.

Dr. Frank C. Rohwer was selected as the George Barineau, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries. He has been an active member of the School of Renewable Resources for 14 years, teaching a wide range of undergraduate courses including Introduction to Wildlife Ecology, Principles of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Policy and Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management Techniques and Renewable Natural Resources Policy. He has also served as the academic adviser for more than 25 M.S. or Ph.D. graduate students and has taught numerous graduate seminar courses as well as the Ecology and Management of Waterfowl. Dr. Rohwer's research focus is prairie breeding waterfowl, so he spends time in the spring and summer in North Dakota or the Canadian prairie provinces, evaluating management efforts to improve waterfowl production.

Funding for the Barineau Professorship was provided by Bill and Stephanie Barineau. Bill's father, George Barineau, Jr., was a land manager with oil and land development companies with large holdings in southwestern Louisiana. George was an avid outdoorsman, and Bill recalls many fine father-son fishing trips, but his dad's favorite outdoor pastime was waterfowling. Bill graduated from LSU with a degree in petroleum engineering in 1957. He and Stephanie took advantage of Exxon's generous matching program to create this professorship to honor George Barineau's dedication to and support of wildlife management.

Dr. Terry Tiersch of the Aquaculture Research Station and the School of Renewable Natural Resources was invited by the Chinese Academy of Sciences to teach a short course in aquaculture genetics in Beijing, and he was a visiting professor in the Academy. Tiersch also toured and spoke at Zhejiang Ocean University in Zhoushan,



Frank Rohwer releasing a female lesser scaup that he captured at her nest on one of his study sites in North Dakota. Scaup populations on that site have grown dramatically, while the continental population continues to decline.

where he was an adjunct professor in the Marine Fisheries Institute. In addition to touring inland fish farms and a coastal hatchery, he made presentations on the genetic resources of aquatic animals at two of the top four universities in China: Zhejiang University (College of Life Sciences) in Hangzhou and Fudan University (Institute of Biodiversity Science) in Shanghai.

LSU AgCenter researchers **Dr. Richard Vlosky**, director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, and **Dr. Michael Dunn**, associate professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, have partnered with Dr. Glenn Hughes, professor, Mississippi State University Extension Service, in a study titled "Certified Forests: Preparing Private Landowners for the Future." The \$102,000 project is funded by a grant from the Southern Region Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program (SARE). The two-year effort will be a combined research and extension program to identify the potential for providing certified forest products in Louisiana and Mississippi. The research component will survey major home retail centers to identify

current and potential future certification systems and products acceptable to these companies.

Dr. Xu is serving as a faculty host for two international visiting scholars, Professor Ayed Al Omary from Jordan and Sucheon Choi from South Korea. Dr. Al Omary, dean of the College of Agriculture at Mu'tah University, has received a Fulbright Scholarship, which is the U.S. government's flagship academic exchange effort administered by the Department of State. During his one-year stay in the School, Dr. Al Omary will work on synthesis of forest ecosystem productivity and carbon sequestration potential. Choi, director of the Forest Management Support Division, South Korea Forest Service, received a Korean Government Overseas Research Fellowship. This fellowship program aims to provide South Korean senior government officials with the opportunity to obtain cutting-edge knowledge and job-related experience relevant to the Korean Government. During his 18-month stay in our School, Choi will work on the development of watershed management planning for Korean national forests. We are fortunate to host these two international scholars.

Smith Becomes Manager for Arch Wood Protection, Inc.



Dr. Ramsay Smith was named Wood Global Research Manager for Arch Wood Protection, Inc., a division of Arch Chemicals of Atlanta, effective

August 1. Arch Wood Protection has facilities all over the world with research laboratories in Atlanta, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

He was hired by the LSU AgCenter in December 1993 to develop and administer the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory. To increase the visibility of the laboratory and to extend to areas other than research, the name was changed in 2003 to the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center. In 2003, after 10 years as director, he decided to change from an administrative role to full-time research, thus enhancing the Wood Durability Research Program.

During his tenure as LFPDC director, he increased the number of faculty from two (Dr. Niels deHoop and himself) to five. This included the hiring of Dr. Rich Vlosky (current director), Dr. Qinglin Wu and Dr. Todd Shupe. This team has earned more than \$3.5 million in outside funding, produced more than 280 publications (40 percent of which are refereed) and graduated six doctoral and 14 master of science students.

His personal research areas covered a relatively broad range during his 27 years in academia. They include physical properties of wood and wood products, treatments to increase durability of wood and engineered wood products, issues in international wood construction, life cycle analysis of wood products, international trade in forest products and new product development. His latest research endeavor in developing the Wood Durability Research Program has brought international recognition in

analyzing and developing products/treatments that help protect wood from Formosan subterranean termites, mold and decay.

In the past five years, he has worked with more than 30 companies ranging from very small to some of the largest in the industry in developing, testing, and analyzing new product treatments for the wood protection market. He also developed and maintained three research laboratories (two on campus and one field site), conducting efficacy studies for treatments to resist Formosan subterranean termites (*Coptotermes formosanus*), decay and mold. Other types of industrial research conducted while at the LSU AgCenter included lumber drying issues (treated and untreated), wood-based panel dimensional stability, manufacturing problems and wood construction technologies including moisture intrusion.

Before coming to the LSU AgCenter, Smith was on the faculty at the University of Washington in Seattle where he taught a number of wood science graduate and undergraduate courses. He left the University of Washington to become director and to establish the Appalachian Export Center for Hardwoods (APEX). He attended North Carolina State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Wood Science and Technology. After graduating, he spent two years as a consultant in Western North Carolina before going to graduate school at UC Berkeley. He is past president of the Society of Wood Science and Technology and is president of the Forest Products Society. He continues to manage 200 acres of family-owned timberland in western North Carolina, where he is the fifth generation from the Cherokee Indians.

The School of Renewable Natural Resources congratulates Ramsay on his new position, and we certainly miss him. Contact him at wrsmith@archchemicals.com.



Student News

Forestry Spring Camp

Seven students enrolled in Spring Camp this year, which is offered during the last eight weeks of the spring semester. Spring Camp follows eight weeks of campus-based courses offered for students in their junior year. While the combination of campus and camp coursework makes the semester quite demanding, this format gives students the entire summer to work in forestry related jobs.

Camp consists of six one-week courses and one two-week course. Subjects include mensuration, dendrology, silviculture, harvesting, utilization, silvicultural prescriptions and a forestry practicum. Most of camp is conducted at the J. G. Lee Memorial Forest in Washington Parish, situated within and near a variety of habitats and silvicultural systems. Habitats range from upland pine forests to bottomland hardwood forests, and silvicultural systems range from ecological forestry practiced by local conservation groups to production forestry practiced by industries and investment management groups to multiple-use forestry practiced on non-industrial private land. Some days,



camp starts on the LSU campus with field trips or exercises in the Mississippi River alluvial plain, the Atchafalaya Basin or mills in central Louisiana.

The camp setting provides uninterrupted blocks of time to complete practical exercises and gain important field skills that are simply unavailable during the typical three-hour lab of a campus-based course. In addition, the proximity to forestry operations allows students to witness a range of operations that occur during the normal course of forest management. Lee Forest is a working forest, which provides opportunities for students to participate in controlled burns, herbicide application, pruning, harvesting and lumber sawing. It is also a multiple-use forest, which also provides opportunities for students to learn about water quality and other forest-related resources.

Leadership, teamwork, self-reliance, tolerance and perseverance are other important skills students learn at camp in addition to practical skills.

Spring Camp is an important part of the forestry curriculum, and because many southern forestry schools are eliminating camp from their programs, the camp experience gives our students an increasingly unique credential when they begin their careers.



Student News

First Ben and Pauline Stanley Awards

The first Ben and Pauline Stanley Awards winners are John Benson (M.S.) and Mike Kaller (Ph.D.). John is a student of Dr. Mike Chamberlain, and Mike is Dr. Bill Kelso's student. Several strong applicants were reviewed by the selection committee, and these two outstanding graduate students were selected because they meet all criteria specified. The Ben and Pauline Stanley Award is made possible by the generosity of Pauline and the late Ben Stanley and their sons Larry, Paul and Tom. Larry and Paul are alumni of our school, and Larry is a member of the RNR Advisory Council. The two recipients were honored at the School's spring awards banquet.

Outstanding Wildlife Students

Erik Johnson has been accepted to the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) graduate research program, Tropical Ecology, an Ecological Approach. According to Dr. Bruce Williamson, LSU's delegate to the OTS, competition for acceptance is always intense, with there being two to three times as many applications as acceptances. The program consists of eight weeks of study at OTS in Costa Rica, concluding with a brief visit to the Smithsonian Institution research site in Panama. The experience will position Erik to access OTS research funds in the future.

Scholarships Awarded

Two Renewable Natural Resources wildlife ecology students received scholarships from the Louisiana Garden Club Federation. Ann Marie Commagere received a \$1,500 scholarship, and Carrie Lynn Powell a \$500 book scholarship.

Field Work

Jessica O'Connell has begun field work to determine the effects of terraces, a relatively new and popular wetland restoration technique, on waterbirds. She will use the data for a master's thesis; she works under the direction of Dr. Andy Nyman.

Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

Recognized by Gamma Sigma Delta at this year's awards banquet in April were Renewable Natural Resources students Rachel Katherine Villani and Louis Divincenti, Jr. Both sophomores were congratulated on their excellent academic achievements which required maintaining a 3.5 gpa.

Lucas Oligschlaeger - First Recipient of the Hoffpauer Memorial Fund

In October 2004, Lucas Oligschlaeger received the first Clark Milliken Hoffpauer Memorial Scholarship. The fund was established to benefit students enrolled in graduate programs at the School of Renewable Natural Resources. The gift honors the memory of Clark M. Hoffpauer and demonstrates his dedication and commitment to both the field of wildlife and natural re-

source studies and to LSU.

Lucas' work focuses on breeding waterfowl, particularly those that breed on the prairies. The prairie pothole region, where most waterfowl are produced, has experienced a great loss of wetland and upland nesting habitat in recent decades. Upland cover has been recognized as a fundamental habitat component for breeding ducks, but selection of breeding habitat has been largely attributed to wetland habitat conditions. His study uses wetland conditions not only to estimate breeding population size, but also as an indicator of production. The study will determine whether upland cover influences breeding habitat selection by comparing duck pair abundance on two habitat types: grassland and annually cropped land.

Clark M. Hoffpauer received his M.S. in Wildlife Management from LSU in the 1960s. He strongly believed in the University's commitment to environmental studies as well as the quality of the faculty and staff. Hoffpauer was born in 1930 in Crowley, the son of Sterling Clark and Dorothy Milliken Hoffpauer.

Starting as a biologist in 1950, Hoffpauer went on to become the director of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He was responsible for the procurement of five game management areas and received the Louisiana Conservationist of the Year Award in 1972. He served as president of the Southeastern Game and Fish Commissioners Association, where he was instrumental in the return of the endangered brown pelican, legislative changes in alligator management and many other innovative studies and practices still in place today. A lifelong pilot, adventurer and avid sportsman, Clark M. Hoffpauer eventually retired part time to Alaska,

where he worked as a bush pilot and completed his last project of building his dream home in Homer, Alaska. Having been part of the University's past, the endowment fund now allows Hoffpauer to be part of its future.



Lucas Oligschlaeger



Clark M. Hoffpauer

Faculty and Students Attend Professional Conferences

The **26th Annual International Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists** was well attended by wildlife and fisheries faculty Drs. Sammy King, Megan LaPeyre and Andy Nyman and graduate students Sarah Barlow, Wes Cochran, Marie Perkins, Jessica O'Connell, Sergio Peirluissi and Marie Perkins. Nine posters and/or talks were given; Dr. King was listed seven times as co-author. At the meeting, Dr. Nyman began a one-year term as president-elect of the South Central Chapter of SWS and will automatically assume the duties of president and past-president over the next three years.

Dr. Jun Xu and Dr. Kangshen Wu attended the **3rd International Conference on Watershed Management to Meet Water Quality Standards and Emerging TMDL** in Atlanta, where Dr. Wu presented a paper, "Nitrogen Retention of the Largest River Swamp in North America and Applicability of SWAT for three Coastal Watersheds in Louisiana." Dr. Xu also attended the **9th International Symposium on Biogeochemistry of Wetlands** in Baton Rouge and presented "Nitrogen Removal of a Large River Swamp System - The Atchafalaya River Basin."

Three posters and four presentations were presented by Dr. Xu's students at the **2005 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Assembly** in New Orleans and the **2005 Louisiana Surface Water Quality Conference** in Lafayette. Both conferences were held this summer. Congratulations to Dr. Xu and his students for their accomplishments.

■ "Organic Carbon Fluxes from the Atchafalaya River into the Gulf of Mexico." Poster. Abhijit Patil, Adrienne Viosca and Dr. Jun Xu

■ "Assessing the Effectiveness of Forest Best Management Practices in two Central Louisiana Watersheds." Poster. Adrienne Viosca, Abhijit Patil and Dr. Jun Xu

■ "Scales and Uncertainties in Estimating Soil Carbon with STATSGO Database for Louisiana." Poster. Fugui Wang, Biao Zhong and Dr. Jun Xu

■ "A 25-Year Retrospective Analysis of River Nitrogen Fluxes in the Atchafalaya." Dr. Jun Xu

■ "Watershed Impacts of Forestry Best Management Practices on Water Quality. Adrienne Viosca." Abhijit Patil and Dr. Jun Xu

■ "Terrestrial Organic Carbon Discharge from the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico." Abhijit Patil and Dr. Jun Xu

■ "Long-term Freshwater and Sediment Inflows to Lake Pontchartrain." Kangsheng Wu and Dr. Jun Xu

Also presenting at the **AGU Meeting** was Blake Amos, a graduate student of Dr. Richard Keim. Blake presented the paper, "Coastal forest productivity and wetland hydrology: A dendrochronological study." Co-authors were Drs. R.F. Keim and T. W. Doyle.

Students in Dr. Stouffer's lab traveled to the annual meeting of the **American Ornithologists' Union** in Santa Barbara. Jenny DiMiceli and Erik Johnson gave presentations on their research with Henslow's Sparrows, and David Fox presented results from his work with bird communities in the Manchac swamp. Jenny's trip was partially supported by a Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Award from the AOU. David and Jenny also gave their talks at the annual meeting of the **Louisiana Professional Biologists** in Lafayette. Dr. Stouffer was invited to speak in a special session on forest birds in agricultural landscapes at the annual meeting of the **Ecological Society of America** in Montreal.



Dave Fox removes a cage used to exclude birds from small cypress and tupelo trees. This tests whether birds reduce herbivory on trees by eating phytophagous insects, particularly baldcypress leaf rollers, *Archips goyerana* Kruse.

Louisiana 4-H Forestry Team Places in National Invitational

Four Louisiana 4-H members competed in the 26th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational at historic Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp in West Virginia. Kelli Sepulvado (Sabine Parish), Aaron Martin (Rapides Parish), Joshua Gooding (Lafayette Parish) and Lindsey Tassin (West Baton Rouge Parish) competed as one of 16 teams from across the country. Louisiana's team placed 6th overall, while Lindsey Tassin and Aaron Martin placed ninth and eleventh, individually.

The 4-H'ers competed in tree, insect and disease identification; compass and pacing; tree measurement; topographic map reading; and a written test as individuals. They also competed as a team in a forestry quiz bowl and a forest site evaluation exercise.

This year's team was coached by Barry Crain, LSU AgCenter area Extension forester in Alexandria, and Dr. Hallie Dozier, assistant professor in the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources.

The Forestry Invitational is one of several national 4-H competitions held each year, and Louisiana has participated since 1981. The 4-H'ers who compete in the national contest are selected in a state contest that takes place at 4-H University each summer on the LSU campus. Several have gone on to careers in forestry and natural resource management. All gain a deeper understanding of the importance of wise management and stewardship of natural resources.

If you are interested in supporting this or other 4-H forestry-related activities contact Dr. Hallie Dozier at hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu.



Louisiana 4-H'ers Linsey Tassin (l) and Kelli Sepulvado (r) work off some post-contest energy with a little cross-cut activity.



4-H Forestry Invitational Team member Kelli Sepulvado checks a compass reading during the compass and pacing event.

Renewable Natural Resources Students Receiving Degrees at Recent Commencements:

Fall 2004

Bachelor of Science in Forestry

Adam Andrew Agosta
William Joseph Andrepont
Michael Anthony Deliberto, Jr.
Justin Robert Suchy
Lonnie Clayton Wascom

Bachelor of Science Wildlife & Fisheries

Joseph Jerome Acosta III
Jennifer Leigh Baggett
Harley Cole Davis
Caitlin Leigh Erickson
Jessica Sanders Gendron
Shannon Gayle Hurd
Melvin Raymond Landry III
Paul Myron LeBlanc III
Casey Douglas Lillie
Brandon Charles Muller
Emelie Nicole Schlatre

Master of Science-Fisheries

Amogh Arun Ambardekar
Timothy Wayne Birdsong
Patrice Arnold Pawiroredjo

Master of Science-Forestry

Matthew Daniel Voitier

Ph.D.-Forestry

Luben Dimov
Brian Kipling Via

Spring 2005

Bachelor of Science in Forestry

Charles Ryan Acquistapace
Angela Hutton Secott

Bachelor of Science Wildlife & Fisheries

Victor Scott Goss
Amanda Dianne Hackney
Henry Lee Hanna
Kristin Lynn Marchal
Jennifer A. Thistlethwaite
Angela Marie Williamson

Master of Science-Fisheries

Fernando Jimenez

Master of Science-Wildlife

Heather Q. Baldwin
Michael John Baldwin

John F. Benson
Nicole Frances Lorenz
Walker Blake Wilson

Ph.D.-Forestry

Kangsheng Wu

Ph.D.-Wildlife & Fisheries Science

Qiaoxiang Dong
Michael Douglas Kaller

Summer 2005

Bachelor of Science Wildlife and Fisheries

Thyme Nicole Yoes

Master of Science-Forestry

Jamie Camille Schexnayder
Gi Young Jeong

Master of Science-Fisheries

Jonathan Christopher Fisher
Roberto Quintana

Ph.D.-Forestry

Indah D. Kusuma

Alumni News

Suna Adam Knaus, '88 B.S.F., president of Gulf South Research Corporation, Baton Rouge, has been awarded the Administrator's Award for Excellence from the U.S. Small Business Administration. GSRC provided services to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in regard to environmental resources planning.

H. Michael Barnes, '65 B.S.F., '68 M.S. Forest Products, received Mississippi State University's 2005 Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award for his teaching, research and service, which have been recognized at the national and international levels. Mike, who received a doctorate from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry—Syracuse, has been a member of the MSU faculty since 1971.

Bob G. Blackmon, '69 Ph.D. Forestry, retired as director and professor of the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, June 30. Bob and his wife, Mary Beth, now live in Troy, N.Y. He served as director from February, 2000 - June, 2005.

Jack B. Cochran, '47 B.S.F., died June 21. His wife, Winona, reported that he loved his forestry alumni association and that he spent his entire working career as an officer in Bunkie Wood Products, Bunkie, La.

R. Rodney Foil, '56 B.S.F., '60 M.F., was inducted into the LSU Alumni Hall of Distinction July 22. Dr. Foil, who served on the LSU faculty in the 1960s, is vice president emeritus of Agriculture and Forestry at Mississippi State University.

Alan D. (Lanny) Dreesen, '68 B.S.F., visited the School March 3 with his wife and took Prof. Emeritus Burns to supper. Lanny worked with the Texas Forest Service for many years and is a consulting forester in Spring, Texas. He and his former forestry teacher reminisced about colorful Texas foresters, of which there were many.

John L. Harper, '59 B.S.F., '71 M.S. Forestry, has retired as a forester for Boise after 31 years of service in Louisiana.

Aaron W. Pool '99 B.S.F., and his wife, Shannon, are parents of a third child, Sadye Kathryn Pool, born June 14. Aaron is resource forester, Plum Creek Timber Company, Winnfield, La. Aaron's photo is in the Careers section of the School's Web site, www.rnr.lsu.edu.

The late **Thomas E. Prince, Jr.**, '63 B.S.F., '82 M.S. Forestry, was honored this spring by the designation of the Tom Prince Forest Awareness trail at Indian Creek State Forest in Rapides Parish. A forester for many years with the La. Cooperative Extension Service, Tom helped educate more than 29,000 students in his parish in the Forest Awareness program.

Joseph Norwood Redhead, '61 B.S.F., has a son, J.N. Redhead, Jr., who is a physician in Baton Rouge. One of Dr. Redhead's patients is a professor at the School of RNR and heard from Dr. Redhead, that after graduating from LSU, his dad wanted to join the Air Force, but the Army drafted him, and he joined the National Guard. The senior Norwood now buys and sells timberland in Mississippi and nearby locations.

Donald P. Reed, '78 B.S.F., '82 M.S. Wildlife, '96 Ph.D. Forestry, is a wildlife and forestry specialist with LSU AgCenter's Cooperative Extension Service. His LSU forestry student son, **Matthew J. Reed**, is the 2005 recipient of the Norwin Linnartz Forestry Scholarship, awarded by the Louisiana Forestry Foundation. Don and Matt live in Jackson, La. This is the second time this new scholarship has been awarded. Last year's award went to **Michael A. Deliburto, Jr.**, '04 B.S.F.

Michael T. Smith, '76 B.S.F., wrote a complimentary letter about his memories of the School's forestry program in the seventies. He earned a Ph.D. in entomology and is lead scientist on Invasive Species and research entomologist USDA-ARS, Beneficial Insect Introduction Research Unit. He also serves as adjunct professor, Dept. of Entomology & Applied Ecology, Univ. of Delaware, Newark.

Walter C. Snyder, '52 B.S.F., died June 28 in Zachary at age 80. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Marie Ellisalde Snyder, a son, two daughters and four grandchildren. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and completing his forestry degree, he worked as a licensed real estate broker and forestry consultant.

Got News?

E-mail Todd Shupe
tshupe@lsu.edu

or

Paul Burns
pyburns@lycos.com

See you at homecoming, November 5, 2005.

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