Like many waterfowl ecologists, Frank fell in love with ducks as a teen when he was hunting with his family. When he started doing duck research as an undergraduate student way back in the 1970s his fate as a “duck guy” was sealed. Since he joined the faculty at LSU, Frank’s research has focused on ducks. “Sure, I have had a few projects dealing with songbirds or herons, but let’s face it, I’m a duck guy.”

Louisiana is the right place for a “duck guy” because it is the winter home for millions of waterfowl that forage in agricultural habitats, flooded bottomland forests or coastal marsh. Moreover, Louisiana has a lot of very serious duck hunters – our sportsmen consistently harvest more ducks per hunter than in any other state. One great aspect of Frank’s work, however, is that he can study ducks in the winter and then in April, he migrates north just ahead of the ducks to study production. For a duck guy, that is the best of both worlds. The following is a short story by Dr. Rowher describing his career in duck research.

Recently, I have gotten a lot of calls that are basically asking, “What has happened to the ducks?” When I answer that question, I usually do a 15-year trace of duck numbers. At the beginning of the 1990s, when I came to Louisiana, duck populations in North America had hit their lowest point in decades of consistent duck surveys. Hunting seasons were short, bag limits were low and many hunters were so frustrated they were giving up hunting.

Fortunately, things turned around in 1994 when the key prairie pothole region, which produces most of the ducks coming to Louisiana, began a string of very wet years. Ducks really responded, and by 1999 duck populations were larger than had been recorded at any time in the 50-year history of reliable surveys. In recent years, waterfowl hunting in Louisiana hasn’t been nearly as good as the glory years around 1999. That has made my phone ring a lot recently.

I have told many callers that the key to duck numbers in Louisiana are events that happen north of us – particularly the prairies. Duck populations – including those coming to Louisiana and the Mississippi Flyway – are driven by duck reproduction, and that primarily occurs in the prairie pothole region. That is why most of my research focuses on nesting ducks – when they are about 1,800 miles north of Louisiana. Hence my annual research sojourns to prairie production areas like North Dakota, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Management to increase duck production is the best way to assure that there are plenty of ducks in Louisiana. Of course, a second key factor affecting the number of ducks wintering in Louisiana is the weather in states north of us. Recent mild winters have meant a lot more ducks are stopping in mid-latitude states. That’s good for Missouri hunters, not so good for Louisiana hunters and nothing that mortals without strings to manipulate the weather can worry about.
These research results led the Delta Waterfowl Foundation and other groups, including District Offices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation to expand their trapping in North Dakota using 36-square-mile blocks. Lucas Oligschlaeger evaluated that operational trapping as part of a master’s thesis and discovered that nest success had risen to 47 percent on 36-square-mile blocks; 21 percent on nontrapped blocks. The elevated hatching rate was due to the virtual elimination of red fox from much of eastern North Dakota because of a severe and long-running outbreak of sarcoptic mange.

My students and I have recently initiated another round of research on issues related to predator reduction. One goal is to see how nest success changed as we got outside the perimeter of a trapped block. We assumed that crossing the boundary of the block would not mean nest success dropped precipitously from 47 percent to 21 percent in a few feet. Instead, we predicted that nest success might remain elevated for some distance away from the block. If there was a 1-mile buffer of enhanced nest success, we would add 28 square miles of perimeter habitat with greater duck production. Peggy Kuhn’s is in the second season of her master’s research to quantify the changes in nest success as you go from the trapped blocks out 3 miles. Meanwhile, Darren Wiens is examining the impacts of predator reduction on a variety of other prairie birds, but focusing on shorebirds like Upland Sandpipers, phalaropes and Wilson’s Snipe. Finally, Matt Pieron, a Ph.D. student, is testing whether density of ducks increases on blocks that have been trapped over several years to the increased production and homing by females. The second, more exciting, part of the work that Matt and I are doing is to look at how duck density affects individual reproductive success.

By now you are convinced that I am doing a lot of research to evaluate predator reduction as a management tool. I should remind you that this is a fairly new approach to duck management that is obviously controversial. Managers must have good science-based information available to guide their choices about whether and where to use such intensive management.

Although most of my research has focused on breeding ducks in the prairies, I have also done quite a bit of waterfowl work here in Louisiana. That work ranges from foraging behavior and site selection research on the coastal fresh marshes to research examining Mottled Duck nesting on both the Mississippi River Delta and the Atchafalaya River Delta. In both areas nest density and success are much higher than for coastal marsh. Concern for the Mottled Duck population has lead to a project that started in August that will involve extensive use of radio telemetry to measure survival, habitat use and movements.

I have also had several projects dealing rather directly with evaluations of duck hunters and the ways that we assess the impacts of hunting on duck populations. One of my first projects in Louisiana was done with an M.S. student, Barry Wilson, who tested hunters’ abilities to identify ducks in hand. Hunters scored 100 percent on abundant and colorful species like male Mallards and Wood Ducks, but they typically scored less than 50 percent on the very difficult female diving ducks. My students and I have also done a lot of work to test for biases in our national system for getting information on duck harvest, both the species and sex composition and the more important age ratios (number of juveniles per adult), which is our best continental scale measure of annual duck production.

Finally, like many wildlife researchers I like to dabble in research that is of biological interest, yet may not have application to management. Using temperature monitors to measure the nest attendance patterns for female ducks, trying to understand the behavioral mechanism of nest site selection and research to understand what constrains the number of eggs that ducks lay are several examples of my forays into basic science. This summer I began some collaborative work with a scientist from Berkeley where we are trying to quantify how the antibacterial protection levels in Blue-winged Teal eggs relates to their laying sequence. The first-laid egg in a duck nest often has to sit for 10 days in a nest while the female lays the balance of her clutch at a rate of one egg per day. First-laid eggs should have more protection against bacteria than the last-laid egg.

As long as interest in wetland protection and in waterfowl hunting is strong, you can be sure that there will be continued need to address management options for enhancing duck production or survival. I expect to be right in there training graduate students that will be the next generation of wildlife stewards and doing research in an effort to more efficiently manage our wildlife populations.
Greetings from the School of Renewable Natural Resources. All of you are aware that we conducted a national search this spring for a director to take over the administration of the SRNR. I had hoped that by now we would be welcoming a new director to the School, but things have not progressed as planned. We interviewed three outstanding candidates, but offers of the position were declined, likely due in large part to the financial instability that has plagued the state and the LSU AgCenter since the hurricanes of 2005. I have agreed to remain as the interim director for another year, and I look forward to your continued support as the School moves forward. We remain committed to attracting an outstanding administrator to assume the directorship, someone who will continue to strive for excellence in the School’s research, teaching and extension programs.

We graduated an outstanding group of undergraduate and graduate students in the fall 2005 and spring 2006 commencements, and I was privileged and honored to present the commencement address to College of Agriculture graduates in May. We tried an afternoon awards reception in the School this spring to recognize the academic achievements of our students, and the proceedings were well received by everyone in attendance. Aside from the presentation of a lei and grass skirt by the associate dean to commemorate my continuing recognition of Hawaiian Shirt Friday, the rest of the proceedings were quite civilized as we recognized our scholarship recipients, outstanding freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, M.S. and Ph.D. students, dozens of additional students who have maintained a 3.0 GPA during their tenure in the School and an outstanding staff member chosen by the School’s administrative staff. We will again greet several incoming freshman and transfer students in the fall, and student recruiting remains a priority. We have seen an increase in the number of undergraduates enrolled in our Conservation Biology area of concentration, and we hope to increase enrollment in all of our programs in future semesters. The continued success of our undergraduate degree programs depends on attracting new students to the School, and we need to make sure that graduating high school seniors with interests in renewable resources know about our programs and the careers that are available to SRNR graduates. As I have stated previously, natural resources in Louisiana and throughout the United States. continue to be threatened by pollution, habitat loss, changing land use and over-exploitation, and we need quality professionals to address these problems. We have outstanding curricula in Forestry and Natural Resource Ecology and Management in the School, and we need everyone’s help to get the word out to prospective students, let them know what we have to offer and encourage them to visit our Web site at www.rnr.lsu.edu to find out more about our faculty, students and educational programs, as well as the types of careers that they can pursue.

As I have reviewed the faculty’s accomplishments over the past year, I continue to be impressed by the amount and quality of research, teaching and extension that is being accomplished. Since the beginning of 2005, SRNR faculty have had more than 125 refereed journal articles published and have received more than $2 million dollars in outside funding to support our research efforts. Extension faculty have conducted more than 50 workshops and presentations to hundreds of stakeholders, and evaluations of these presentations are uniformly excellent. During 2005, we taught more than 70 courses that yielded more than 3,000 contact hours for students from SRNR and across the LSU campus. This productivity is truly a group effort and would not be possible without the hard work of our graduate students, research associates, post-docs and administrative staff.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita certainly devastated southern Louisiana and severely impaired many of our research projects, particularly at Lee Memorial Forest. Our research and extension activities, however, have continued and in some cases even increased in response to these catastrophic storms. I again encourage you to log onto the School’s Web site www.rnr.lsu.edu and look at the activities of the SRNR community. We appreciate the support from our stakeholder groups for the research, teaching and extension programs in the School, and we look forward to continuing these relationships as we move forward in the years ahead.

Bill Kelso, Interim Director

Visit our Web sites at
www.lsuagcenter.com or www.rnr.lsu.edu
Wildlife Research

Dr. Mike Chamberlain has two new projects beginning this year. One involves monitoring the success of translocating adult red-cockaded woodpeckers for species restoration efforts. Previously, translocations had involved subadults, but a number of isolated groups of adult woodpeckers are currently contributing little to the viability of the species. Plum Creek Timber Company, LSU and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are partnering to determine if translocating these groups of adults to areas already containing viable populations will augment the population and increase long-term viability.

The second project begins this fall and will be a radio-telemetry project to determine the survival and movements of white-tailed deer in West Baton Rouge Parish. Both males and females will be marked, and a sample will be fitted with radios. The objective is to evaluate how quality deer management programs (antler restrictions, increased harvest of females) are affecting population dynamics. The overall theme is to get a better grasp of mortality rates and population response to selective harvest regimes. Graduate students conducting work are Erin Herbez (woodpecker) and Justin Thayer (deer study).

Mapping Coastal Wetlands Affected and Unaffected by Freshwater Introductions

The Coastal Restoration Enhancement Through Science and Technology (CREST) program will fund a proposal prepared by Andy Nyman (School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU AgCenter), Ron DeLaune (Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute, LSU) and John Foret (Fisheries Service, NOAA). The proposal is “Developing a tool to map coastal wetlands affected and unaffected by freshwater introductions.” Drs. Nyman, DeLaune and Foret developed the study because coastal wetland restoration often entails introducing freshwater into estuaries to increase emergent plant production, but it is difficult to estimate how far the benefits extend into the wetlands at different projects, in different years and under different operating schemes. Such information is needed to guide the operation of existing freshwater introductions and to improve the design of future freshwater introductions. The project includes funding for a research assistant. Vanessa Tobias has accepted that position. At LSU, she will work towards a Ph.D. with a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Science under the direction of Andy Nyman. Her dissertation will address the ecology and restoration of coastal wetlands.

Hydrologic Changes on Bottomland Hardwood Habitat

Dr. Sammy King received funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for a Ph.D. student (Hugo Gee) to evaluate the effects of hydrologic changes on bottomland hardwood habitat conditions in the Mississippi River Valley. In addition, a study was also funded for a M.S. student (Patti Newell) to evaluate cerambycid beetle responses to forest management activities. Both of these studies were to support ongoing conservation efforts related to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker rediscovery. He also received a State Wildlife Grant to evaluate habitat relationships of King Rails in rice fields and other wetlands in central and northern Louisiana.

Urban Tree Responses to Hurricane-related Flooding: Two New Grants

Hallie Dozier and Jim Chambers were selected as the principal investigators on a grant entitled “Mature Tree Response to Hurricane-related Flooding in Northern Gulf Coast Communities.” The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in May, 2006. The cost-share grant, selected in a competitive process, was based on criteria developed by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). Hallic and Jim also received a John Duling grant from the TREE (Tree Research, Education Endowment) fund to provide start-up funds for research on long-term effects of storm-related flooding on mature urban and community trees along the Gulf Coast. The TREE fund is a nonprofit grant program that supports tree, urban forestry and arboricultural research as well as provides internships for college students working toward careers in arboriculture and tree care.

RNR Continues Research in Coastal Wetland Forests

The School of Renewable Natural Resources recently established the CWF-Cooperative on Regeneration and Environment (CWF-CORE). The CWF CORE will provide a research and education emphasis on problems related to regeneration and establishment of coastal wetland forests for protection of their core values and services.

The mission of the CORE is to provide a scientific basis for protecting the sustainability of coastal wetland forests through research on regeneration and environmental processes affecting it. The research includes aspects of the environment that affect regeneration and sustainability, including diagnostics for delineating hydrological conditions that affect regeneration, establishment and growth. The cooperative was established subsequent to the findings of Louisiana’s Science Working Group on Coastal Wetland Forest Conservation and Use (www.coastalforestswg.lsu.edu). The CWF-CORE is supported by individuals who are employed by a number of federal, state and private organizations research activities. For information see our website at www.rnr.lsu.edu/core or contact Dr. Jim L. Chambers at 225.578.4220.
RNR Research Continues With Neotropical Migrant Songbirds

Students in Phil Stouffer’s lab have been busy conducting field work with birds across the state in pine forests, savannas and swamps. Their work in the baldcypress-wertupelo swamp around Lake Maurepas was featured in an article that led the Metro section of the New Orleans Times-Picayune on June 12 and was subsequently run by the Baton Rouge Advocate on June 26. The article featured RNR Research Associate David Fox and included some great pictures from the field. It described research aimed at assessing the potential effects of a diversion of water from the Mississippi River into the Maurepas Swamp, where the added sediment should help prevent swamp forest from degrading into open marsh. The swamp holds extremely high densities of several species of Neotropical migrant songbirds, even in low productivity forest, but research from Stouffer’s lab has shown that these birds would disappear with continued forest degradation.

Atchafalaya Basin


Hydrology in Coastal Louisiana

Richard Keim and students continue work to understand how changing hydrology in coastal Louisiana is affecting wetland forests. Recently completed and ongoing research includes using tree rings to reconstruct past ecological consequences of changing hydrology, as well as using field and satellite data to map the spatial extent of degraded and productive coastal wetland forests.

Blake Amos presented the results of his research at the Society of Wetland Scientists meeting in Cairns, Australia. Blake was one of only a few American students to make the trip and was able to do so with funding from the Gilbert Foundation.

Patricia Lefeaux Retires

In most organizations that function well, someone typically works behind the scenes to see things run smoothly. The Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC) is no exception. We have been blessed to have Patricia Lefeaux, our administrative assistant, help us all be as productive as we can be. Sadly (for us), Pat retired at the end of July.

Pat managed our office and provided support for four faculty members and graduate students, research associates, post docs and visiting professors. Pat maintained reporting on the center’s budget and expenditures and for the 40 grants obtained by faculty members (currently totaling nearly $2 million).

Pat has lived in Brusly, Louisiana all of her life. She graduated from Brusly High School and Spencer Business College before embarking on a career with the State of Louisiana. Pat spent nine years with the Louisiana Department of Highways before coming to the LSU AgCenter, working in the AgCenter Dairy Improvement Center. Pat has been with the LFPDC since its inception in 1993.

Pat and her husband Jules married in 1966 after he received his degree from LSU. They have a daughter, Patti and a son, Jonathan.

Pat’s hobby of flower arranging has turned into a wonderful post-retirement business. She passed her florist certification exam last year and has her own company “Flowers by Patricia.”

Pat was awarded both the LSU Staff Outstanding Service Award and the Charles Dunbar award, which is given to the top 24 state civil service employees out of 120,000 each year. After 33 years of working for the State of Louisiana and 13 years at the LFPDC, we wish Pat the best that life has to offer.

Doug Gardner Honored as the Second Choong Lecture Series Speaker

We are pleased to announce that Professor Douglas “Doug” J. Gardner was our speaker in the second Elvin Choong Lecture Series on May 16. Doug gave two presentations, each 20 minutes long. The first was “Standards, Procedures and Guidelines for Accrediting Educational Programs Leading to a Professional Degree in Wood Science and Technology or Forest Products,” and the second was “Graduate Certificate in Advanced Engineered Wood Composites.” They were open to the public, free of charge. Students in particular were encouraged to attend.
Faculty News

**Dr. Richard Keim** was invited to participate in a session on Wetlands and Global Change at the joint meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Australian Marine Sciences Association in Cairns, Australia, July 2006.

At the meeting, **Dr. Andy Nyman** was elected as president of the South Central Chapter. The Society of Wetland Scientists is a nonprofit organization founded in 1980 to promote wetland science and the exchange of information related to wetlands. The society continues to grow and has more than 4,000 members from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and many other countries. It publishes the peer-reviewed journal “Wetlands,” holds an annual meeting for the presentation of scientific and technical information and maintains numerous other programs in support of student research and wetland science.

**Dr. Richard Vlosky**, Director of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, was recently an invited plenary keynote speaker at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations XXII World Congress in Brisbane, Australia. Vlosky spoke on “e-Business: Realities and Opportunities.”

**Dr. Todd Shupe**, professor, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, presented a paper titled, “The covariation between mechanical and chemical properties for longleaf pine (Pinus palustris).” The paper was co-authored by **Dr. Mike Stine**, associate professor of forest genetics, in the School as well as **Dr. Brian Via**, former graduate student, and Dr. Les Groom of the USDA Forest Service laboratory in Pineville, La.

**Dr. Richard Vlosky** has been appointed associate professor in the Department of Forestry at Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Timisoara, Romania. He will spend two weeks lecturing to graduate students at the university in spring, 2007.

**Dr. Niels de Hoop** spoke to a group of 200 people interested in the use of biomass and small-diameter trees at the SmallWood 2006 conference held at Richmond, Virginia, in May. He organized a session on the use of hurricane-damaged timber and spoke about how Louisiana responded to the crisis (from a forestry standpoint) and gave pointers on how the forestry community can try to prepare for such disasters in the future.

**Dr. Hallie Dozier** was elected to represent Louisiana on the International Society of Arboriculture South ern Chapter board of directors for 2006-2008. She has also hired a new research/extension associate, **RaHar-old Lawson**. Ray comes to LSU with a B.S. and M.S. in Urban Forestry from Southern University. Ray’s primary duties include helping Dr. Dozier expand and improve continuing education programming for Louisiana arborists as well as field and survey research.

**Dr. Mike Stine** was selected to participate in LEAD21, a year-long program designed to foster leadership development at land-grant institutions. The first week-long session in Indianapolis focused on developing a better understanding of personal leadership strengths, weaknesses and styles and taught a variety of skills and tools. This fall Dr. Stine will spend a week in Kansas City learning about institutional types and cultures and diversity issues in the land-grant system. The final session will be held in Washington, D.C. next spring and will focus on public leadership, policy development and federal legislation.

**Three faculty members** in the School were promoted during the 2005-06 promotion and tenure cycle. **Dr. Andy Nyman** received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. **Dr. Todd Shupe** was promoted to full professor. **Dr. Zhijun Liu** was promoted to full professor. The success of these faculty members in the promotion and tenure process is a testament to their hard work and outstanding contributions.

**Dr. Rich Vlosky** was an invited expert to participate in a workshop titled “Building Capacity for Sharing Forest and Market Information” in Prague and Krtiny, Czech Republic, October 24-28, 2005. Vlosky gave presentations on forest-sector driven economic development and fundamentals of forest products marketing. Country reports and copies of the presentations given at the meeting can be found at www.unee.org/trade/timber.

**Dr. Craig Miller**, a human dimensions expert on the wildlife faculty, recently accepted a position at the University of Georgia. We will miss Craig’s research expertise and enthusiasm for teaching, but we wish him the best of luck in his new position.

Three faculty members recently won the 2005-2006 Southern Forest Resource Extension Specialists awards: **Dr. Rich Vlosky** won an award in the extension newsletter category for the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center Newsletter, **Dr. Todd Shupe** won with high distinction in the journal publication category (trade, business or research) for “Past, Present and Future of Preservative-Treated Wood” and **Dr. Hallie Dozier** won in the journal publication category (trade, business or research) for “Hire an Arborist for Residential Tree Needs.” Dr. Dozier also won in the project administration category for the Louisiana Arborist Continuing Education program.
Hurricane Katrina tore through Washington Parish on August 29, 2005 with devastating force. Lee Memorial Forest took a direct hit. In just a few hours, the powerful rain and wind uprooted, broke and toppled countless trees. Timber damage was most severe in three specific timber types on the forest - mature timber stands, pine plantations that were thinned within the past 3 years and streamside management zones.

Immediately, efforts were underway to determine an estimate of damaged timber and begin the process of a salvage timber sale. Because of the degree of damage spread through-out the forest, as well as hazardous conditions, the damage assessment was painstakingly slow. Approximately 215 acres of mature timber was damaged, as well as 120 acres of pine plantations and 180 acres of hardwood bottomlands.

After hours of preparation for an emergency salvage timber sale and numerous hurdles, logging finally began on Lee Forest on November 1. The intention of the logging operation was to harvest only storm-damaged trees. Logging operations lasted more than two months, with the last load removed in January, 2006. Totals of timber volume (Doyle Rule) salvaged from the forest are: pine sawtimber, 685 mbf; pine chip-n-saw, 360 cords; pine pulpwood, 803 cords; hardwood sawtimber, 72 mbf and hardwood pulpwood, 175 cords.

As compared to the timber damage, the facilities at Lee Forest suffered only minor damage. Shingles and tin were ripped from roofs, a tree top went through the roof of a small pump shed, two other sheds were completely crushed by toppled trees and a propane gas line was unearthed by a tree stump and its roots. Other damage included broken windows and hundreds of feet of damaged fence. With the quick response of the LSU AgCenter and Facilities Planning, repairs were completed in a timely manner.

The process of debris removal on Lee Forest proved to be a major feat. The powerful storm left entire trees and debris scattered around the headquarters’ area like toothpicks spilled on the kitchen floor. The many miles of roads in the forest were blocked by countless wind-blown trees.

Cleanup on the forest began with two main objectives. First, all debris and trees were cleared away from the facilities and utility rights-of-way to improve access and safety for the Lee Forest staff, the contractors making repairs on the facilities, the families that live on the forest and the utility crews working to restore electricity to the area. Second, all roads were cleared to improve access to the forest for LSU personnel and the logging crew. The Lee Forest staff worked an astonishing 260 hours in the weeks after the storm, just removing debris.

Between the heavy equipment of the logging operation and the equipment used by the forest staff, many miles of roads had to be stabilized and repaired. Erosion was an issue and was addressed as soon as possible. In compliance with Louisiana’s Best Management Practices, wing ditches were installed on roads, water bars were built on fire lanes and seeding was done on logging decks and any areas where the soil was exposed.

It has now been a year since Katrina made history in Washington Parish, and recovery of the forest is still underway. Some previously forested areas were so devastated that reforestation is now required. Site preparation is underway on these areas and planned for regeneration this fall. Other areas, such as the many acres of pine plantations that were damaged, are still in a disastrous state, and plans for addressing this issue are in the works. The percentage of damage in these plantations varies from site to site, making it difficult to determine a plan of action.

In just a few hours Hurricane Katrina laid down enough timber in Washington Parish to equal two-years worth of average timber harvests. Not only was this devastating enough, it also dramatically reduced the value of timber over the course of a day. This, in effect, will hurt the operating budget of Lee Memorial Forest, not now, but in the long run. Years of scheduled harvesting on the forest were removed in two months; however, with proper forest management and carefully scheduled future harvests, the forest will recover and prosper as it once did.
Extension Activities in the School of Renewable Natural Resources

By Hallie Dozier

The LSU Agricultural Center’s School of Renewable Natural Resources is home to five faculty members who provide forestry extension programming to Louisiana’s residents. Extension faculty provide critical information that helps Louisianans working in forestry-related industries to work safely, professionally and grow their economic and business opportunities in environmentally responsible ways. These educational opportunities introduce young people to renewable natural resource management and related career opportunities.

Dr. Leroy Shilling is responsible for delivery of Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) programs across the state for foresters, loggers, burn managers, landowners and students. He collaborates with representatives from the Louisiana Forestry Association, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the timber industry.

Dr. Shilling and co-presenters also conduct programs in neighboring states for CFE credit. Dr. Shilling also presents a two-day 4-H program on environmental threats each year.

Dr. Hallie Dozier provides extension education for Louisiana’s professional tree care workers, reaching licensed and certified arborists from Louisiana and neighboring states. The training they receive helps them work safely and professionally, and is a key component assisting them in protecting the health and vitality of urban and community. Dr. Dozier develops and delivers programs and educational materials on biological invasions and urban and community forestry to homeowners, community volunteer leaders, municipal leaders and land managers across the state. She also presents a program on traditional forestry skills to 4-H youth who participate in the LSU Agricultural Center’s 4-H University.

Three extension faculty members are part of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC), an integral part of the School. Dr. Richard Vlosky, director of the LFPDC, together with Dr. Todd Shupe, work directly with stakeholders to increase the development of primary and secondary wood production to expand the value of Louisiana’s rich forest resource. Their work helps homeowners, consumers, primary and secondary wood products companies, artisans, woodworking hobbyists and policymakers. The research-based educational programs bring these stakeholders information on hurricane recovery, basic wood properties and identification, lumber drying, and small business development, marketing and management.

Dr. Cornelis de Hoop also provides technical assistance to the wood products industries in Louisiana. Dr. de Hoop works extensively with the logging industry in Louisiana to help loggers conduct safe operations and increase productivity. He develops educational materials for and helps teach the Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety workshop and an OSHA regulations workshop. He also helps organize and teach an Advanced Logging Safety workshop.

These extension faculty work closely with faculty and field extension foresters from other departments and offices within the LSU system, including Dr. Michael Dunn, with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, who specializes in natural resource related economics and policy analysis. Field extension includes four area forestry agents (Ricky Kilpatrick in Shreveport, Steven Hotard in Calhoun, Barry Crain in Alexandria and Brian Chandler in Clinton) who work on natural resource management and care issues facing landowners, homeowners, nongovernmental organizations, interest groups and local governmental officials. Together, extension faculty and area forestry agents, provide the people of Louisiana educational opportunities to help them manage timber, natural areas and urban and community trees for recreation, profit and sustainability.

The Silviculture Instructor’s Tour

Louisiana State University, along with Texas A&M and Stephen F. Austin University, hosted the 38th annual Silviculture Instructor’s Tour in October, 2005. The tour took 37 participants from the cypress forests in the Atchafalaya Basin, to the bottomland hardwood forests along the Mississippi River, to longleaf forests near Alexandria and loblolly pine plantations near Shreveport. The tour was held in conjunction with the Society of American Forester’s Annual Convention and was an opportunity for university faculty that teach silviculture to view forest types and silviculture of regions of North America. Personnel from the School of Renewable Natural Resources involved in the tour included Christopher A. Allen, Jim L. Chambers, Ryan Coleman, Thomas J. Dean, Melinda S. Hughes and Richard F. Keim.

Dr. Richard Keim speaks to the silviculture instructors about the management of cypress tupelo forests.
Academic Excellence
Recognition of excellence in academic pursuits is rewarding not only to the students but to their peers and the faculty who work with them in and outside the classroom. The 2005-06 Outstanding Student Awards included: Outstanding Freshman, Alyssa D. Jung; Outstanding Sophomore, Louis Divincenzi Jr.; Outstanding Junior, William W. DeGravelles; and Outstanding Senior, Carrie L. Powell. In addition, the School of Renewable Natural Resources has eight named scholarships with earnings that allow the awarding of $1,500 per semester scholarships for outstanding students. This past year, 33 RNR students had 8.0 grade-point average or above, and 21 of those students were recognized as scholarship recipients. In addition to those scholarships, the Louisiana Forestry Foundation awarded 15 scholarships, at $500 per semester, to students seeking a degree in forestry. Three graduate students were recognized for their excellence in performance at the master’s and Ph.D. levels.

Student Wins Two Research Awards
Sangyeob Lee, graduate research assistant and doctoral candidate in the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC) was recently named first place winner in the 2006 Forest Products Society Wood Award competition for his paper “Argon- and Oxygen-based Plasma Treatment Effects at the Thermomechanical Pulp Fiber and Isotactic Polypropylene Interface.” The first-place award consists of an engraved plaque and a cash honorarium of $1,000. The award is sponsored by Dynnea, a major supplier of wood adhesives for the wood composite industry and was presented by Mr. Bruce Broline, R & D Manager for Dynnea in Springfield, Oregon at the International Convention of the Forest Products Society at Newport Beach, California June 25–28.

Sangyeob Lee is also the 2006 recipient of the Ben and Pauline Stanley Graduate Student Excellence Award. This award recognizes doctoral and master’s students who have made outstanding contributions to research, service or teaching in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. This award symbolizes the School’s commitment to excellence in its graduate education and comes with a check for $500.

Dr. Todd Shupe, (Professor LFPDC) is the faculty adviser for Sangyeob Lee. This is the second time that the LFPDC has had the first-place winner.

Hydrology Students Make Big Splash!
Hydrology students under the direction of Dr. Jun Xu made a big splash this spring attending three conferences and receiving two competitive awards.

Adrienne Viosca, a watershed hydrology graduate student under Dr. Jun Xu, is a recipient of two competitive awards. First, Adrienne received the LSU 2006 M.S. Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid Award. This is a very competitive award (only one winner in the M.S. category selected from the entire university) given by one of the nation’s most prestigious scientific research societies. Adrienne also received the Louisiana Water Environment Association (LWEA) 2006 Scholarship. The scholarship, in amount of $1,500, is to honor former members of LWEA. Adrienne was officially recognized at LWEA’s annual award banquet in June.

Conference Presentations
22nd Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Conference, April 2006:

- Fugui Wang and Y. Jun Xu, “Change Detection of Forest Damage by Hurricane Katrina Using Remotely Sensed Data.”

4th American Water Resources Association GIS and Water Resources Conference, Houston, Texas, May 8-10:

- Philip Saksa, “Modeling Effects of Forestry Operations in the Flat Creek Watershed, Louisiana USA.”
- This International Conference on Challenges in Coastal Hydrology and Water Quality, May 21-24 in Baton Rouge:
  - April Mason, “Spatiotemporal Relations of Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio.”
  - Philip Saksa, “Riverine Nutrient Inputs to Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, USA.”
  - Fugui Wang, “Using Landsat Imagery to Model Salinity Change in Lake Pontchartrain.”

RNR Student Goes to Washington!
Ben Bullock, a School of Renewable Natural Resource forestry senior, was recently selected by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) for an internship in Washington, D.C. Ben will began his internship in September. In this position, Ben will attend and report on Congressional hearings on forestry and natural resources issues and will have the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of forest policy makers along with helping Legislature Assistants in tracking. In addition, Ben will attend other meetings with agency and interest group representatives and assist with NASF office duties.

Student News

Sangyeob Lee and his adviser, Dr. Todd Shupe, pose for a snapshot after Sangyeob takes first place in the 2006 Forest Products Society Wood award.

Watershed hydrology graduate student, Adriene Viosca, in the field.
A Student and a Serious Swimmer

Heather Brand
RNR Wildlife Student

I was born in South Africa but call Zimbabwe home. I have been swimming since age 5, and have been playing in the dirt, riding on motorbikes, camping and being with the animals since the day I was born. My family and I are really into camping and being part of nature. I have two things that drive me and make me who I am — swimming and animals.

I have been privileged to be able to come to America and swim and study wildlife. I received a degree in Wildlife Ecology and a minor in Sociology in May 2006. I have learned a lot about how to manage not only wildlife but people too. I have made many friends during my five years here and all of them are wonderful people.

It has not been an easy task being a collegiate athlete. However, swimming, from a very young age taught me discipline, time management and competitiveness. I don’t settle for anything but my best both in the pool and in the classroom. I have had much help from professors and close friends. Every professor I have had in the RNR curriculum has been very understanding and helpful, from missing classes, exams or field trips. I have great friends who helped me to catch up quickly. I’d like to thank everyone that helped me achieve this goal in my life.

Currently, I am training for the Olympic Games in Beijing, 2008. I received an Olympic Scholarship for the next two years so for now my career is swimming. Unfortunately, my career with animals will have to take a back seat. Hopefully, I will still be around the RNR building working for professors who need help. After the Olympics I hope to move back to Africa and work in the ecotourism field; I would love to one day run or own my own Safari so that everyone I have met here can come and experience Africa. There are no words I could say that would justify how beautiful and surreal life is there.

2006 4-H University Forestry Contest a Huge Success!

On June 21 and 22, 11 Louisiana 4-H members from nine parishes competed in the 4-H University 2006 Forestry Contest on the LSU Campus. The 4-H members spent the first day of the contest competing against one another in traditional forestry skills: orienteering (pacing and compass), tree identification, tree measurements, insect and disease identification, plus a written exam on basic forestry knowledge. On the second day, they took part in a half-day tree care, climbing and ropes educational activity put on for them by the LSU Facility Services arborist crew. Everyone worked very hard and had a blast! Dr. Hallie Dozier is the contest superintendent.

The 2006 winners of the state forestry contest were Josh Ritter (Sabine Parish), Clint Manuel (Evangeline Parish), Brooke Barrios (Sabine Parish) and Victoria LeBlanc (Vermilion Parish). The team represented Louisiana in the

27th National 4-H Forestry Invitational at historic Jackson’s Mill 4-H Camp in West Virginia where they placed 6th against teams from 15 other states. The 2006 forestry team was coached by Mr. Steven Hotard, Area Forester from North Central Region with help from Mr. Brian Chandler, Area Forester from Southeast Region and Teresa Price, 4-H Agent from Claiborne Parish. All the faculty and staff from the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources congratulate the 2006 forestry team on a job well done!

The Forestry Invitational is one of several national 4-H competitions held each year, and Louisiana has participated in this event since 1981. Several 4-H members who have participated in the state contest and in the Forestry Invitational have gone on to careers in forestry and natural resources management. All participants gain a deeper understanding of the importance of wise management and stewardship of natural resources.
Forestry Spring Camp

The Forestry Spring Camp provides excellent opportunities for field exercises, hands-on practice, group projects and extended field trips. The camp setting, with its uninterrupted blocks of time, allows the pursuit of these activities that otherwise cannot be accomplished in the typical three-hour lab of a campus-based course. The Spring Camp occupies the last eight weeks of the Spring semester.

Most of Spring Camp takes place at the School’s Lee Memorial Forest, located between Franklinton and Bogalusa, La. The 1,200-acre forest setting also has a building complex composed of a kitchen, dining room, classroom, bunk houses and a laundry house.

Schedule for the Spring Camp varies each year. A typical camp consists of the following activities.

**Week 1: Wood Utilization (Dr. Wu)**

The wood utilization consists of field trips to a hardwood sawmill, an oriented strandboard plant, a plywood mill, a phenolic resin plant, an engineered wood products plant, a packaging pallet mill and two softwood sawmills. During the week-long event, students are exposed to major wood product manufacturing sectors in the South.

**Week 2: Timber Harvesting (Dr. deHoop)**

Students begin the first part of their week learning chainsaw proficiency, including felling a tree directionally. They learn to cut logs using a portable sawmill while tracking lumber volumes and grades throughout the process. For the rest of the week, they tour different kinds of logging jobs on both Weyerhaeuser land and the DeSoto National Forest. They culminate their week at D-M Equipment Co. in McComb, Miss. to gain a better understanding of the logistics in purchasing and maintaining logging equipment.

**Weeks 3-4: Mensuration (Dr. Cao)**

Students have two weeks of mensuration field exercises, allowing them to perform different types of timber cruises. Students summarize cruise data, develop stand maps, draw diameter histograms, project stand tables using diameter growth information from increment cores, estimate stumpage values and present the above, final information in written form.

**Week 5: Dendrology (Dr. Stine)**

Students’ plant identification skills and their understanding of ecological relationships are enhanced with field trips to various sites on Lee Memorial Forest, the Pearl River, Pushmataha Creek and the Crosby Arboretum. During the week students learn approximately 50 species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs, in addition to reviewing plants learned during fall semester dendrology.

**Week 6: Silviculture (Dr. Dean)**

Students participate in field trips and conduct exercises in two important forest cover types in Louisiana. Day trips are conducted in bottomland hardwoods to learn soil-species relationships and silvicultural systems used in managing this type ecosystem. Students learn techniques for evaluating regeneration in both bottomland and upland pine types. Hurricane damage that occurred on Lee Memorial Forest created a unique opportunity for students to assess wind damage in the young pine stands not subject to extensive breakage or blowdown.

**Week 7: Forested Wetlands (Dr. Keim)**

Students learn about the structure, function and multiple values of forested wetlands, especially as they pertain to forest management issues. Students learn the basic soil, vegetation and hydrological characteristics used by regulatory agencies to define wetlands and practice delineating wetland boundaries. In addition, students concurrently delineate silvicultural Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) and riparian wetland boundaries to compare expected functions of operational BMPs and natural riparian wetlands. Field trips, field exercises and guest speakers introduce students to management issues in a variety of common wetlands in Louisiana, including riverine bottomland hardwoods, pine flatwoods and deltaic and coastal cypress-tupelo forests.

**Week 8: Silvicultural Prescriptions (Drs. Chang and Dean)**

This week serves as the bridge between silviculture and forest management. It has two objectives: (1) to introduce long-term economics in silvicultural prescriptions and (2) to learn about the various philosophies and approaches to management. Most mornings, the students visit with different agencies such as the USDA Forest Service or conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy to learn principles of multiple-use and ecological forestry. During the afternoon, they learn basic principles of economics and work to complete the week-long exercise of developing a prescription for a pine plantation.

Spring Camp plays a vital role in our forestry curriculum. The camp experience gives the students opportunities to synthesize the theoretical knowledge that they have previously learned and apply it to the real world. This is an interactive process that helps the students improve week after week. Spring Camp ensures that our graduates have every opportunity to become competent in practicing forestry as professionals.
Wildlife Conclave 2006

This past spring, the LSU Wildlife Society traveled to Pikeville, Tennessee to attend the 2006 Annual Southeastern Conclave which took place in beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park. This event is the annual chance for Wildlife Society Student Chapters from across the Southeast to meet, compete, learn, and generally have a good time. The LSU students competed in an entire team competition, quiz bowl, men and women’s obstacle courses, archery, rock climbing, orienteering, dendrology, radio telemetry and canoeing.

The Wildlife Society is very proud of the women’s obstacle course team, Ann Commagere, Kayla DiBenedetto and Amanda Fandal, for winning second place out of 16 teams!

The LSU group that traveled included Dr. Craig Miller, Justin Thayer (President), Mark McConnell (Vice-President), Rachel Villani (Treasurer), Ann Commagere, Kayla DiBenedetto, Amanda Fandal, Josh Roy, Bryan Alleman, Jenny Bodin, Tamra Dardenne, Gina Guidry, Jinger Bland, Alison Martin, Melissa Miller, Jacob Pistokache, Jessica Paul, Jennifer Price, Brighton Heard, Terry Hicks, Matt Duplessis, Jake LaPrairie, Lauren Macfarland and Christina Legleu.

Wildlife Camp 2006

During the intersession between spring and summer semesters, wildlife students traveled to Lee Memorial Forest for an intensive two-week course on Wildlife Habitat Evaluation taught by Drs. Chamberlain and Stine. During the course, students learned how to measure and evaluate overstory and understory plant communities, how to trap and mark small mammals, and they ultimately completed a project that integrated the two activities to evaluate relationships between habitat characteristics and small mammal communities.

Student days started early with everyone checking small mammal traps before dawn, followed by plant identification instruction and sampling projects throughout the day. Most days ended a little before dark with the re-baiting of the small mammal traps. Over the course of the two weeks, the students also cruised timber, learned 70 species of plants important to various wildlife species and, because the weather cooperated this year, the students were able to complete two prescribed fires.

This intersession program provides an extensive field experience for the students in addition to building team work and interpersonal skills that will follow them throughout their careers.
The Louisiana Forest Products Development Center Overview, Mission and Accomplishments

In the State of Louisiana, the forest industry contributes more than 50 percent of the total value of all agricultural, animal and fish/wildlife commodities ($4.6 billion in 2005; more than 28,000 employees). In addition to lumber, plywood, oriented strandboard (OSB) and the production of other primary products, more than 200 valuable secondary products are produced, such as furniture, flooring, crafts, pallets and kitchen cabinets.

In 1989, the Louisiana Legislature, recognizing the need to enhance the development of a stronger and more diversified forest products industry in Louisiana, passed House Concurrent Resolution No. 149 sponsored by representatives Long and Patti. This resolution “urged and requested the Louisiana State University Agricultural and Forestry Center to study the establishment of and, if feasible, to implement a Forest Products Utilization and Development Center for the purpose of expansion and diversification of the forest products industry of the state.”

The LSU AgCenter established the Louisiana Forest Products Laboratory (LFPL) in 1992, to provide technical assistance and help in development of value-added processing. In 1999, to better address the needs of Louisiana, the scope of the lab was broadened to include the whole value chain from the forest to the consumer. In 2003, the name was changed to the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC) to better reflect the breadth of activities that take place in the center. Overall, the goal of the LFPDC is to aid the state’s economy and well-being of its people through forest sector development.

The LFPDC has state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for developing and testing new wood-based products including wood-plastic composites, biomass based products and termite resistant preservatives.

Center faculty members also conduct market and business development research to promote industry development in Louisiana. Faculty members work closely with Louisiana state government, industry associations and Louisiana companies, providing input and advice.

The Center, now an integral part of the School of Renewable Natural Resources, provides technical assistance to the primary and value-added processing wood products industries in Louisiana. The major part of the center is housed in the Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Long Leaf, La. According to Robert L. Carroll, ’52 B.S.F., its Secretary-Treasurer is Harold E. Elliott, ’57 B.S.F., and its executive committee associates include Sonie Moore Milton, ’69 B.S.F., James W. Rhodes, ’51 B.S.F., and Robert F. Westbrook, ’66 M.F. Carroll encourages visitors to the museum. Hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

Barton L. Bennett, ’65 B.S.F., recently informed Dr. Burns that he was the second person out of four in his family who earned a degree from the School, a record number! The others are Barton’s father, Frank W. Bennett, ’28 B.S.F. (the third person graduated by the new LSU Forestry Department), and Bart’s two sons, Stephen W. Bennett, ’94 B.S.F., and David O. Bennett, ’97 B.S.F. Bart heads up Bennett & Peters Inc., Forestry Consultants & Appraisers, Baton Rouge. Other LSU forestry alumni listed on the firm’s letterhead include (besides Bart, Stephen and David) are Walter L. Stokes, ’63 B.S.F., John L. Sullivan, ’64 B.S.F., Edward H. White, ’69 B.S.F., and W.R. Edmonds III, ’77 B.S.F.

Charles Birdsong, ’69 M.S. fisheries, is retired and is growing bromeliads. Along with some of the more than 2,000 bromeliads he is growing in his backyard, his photograph appeared in the People section of June 2 issue of The Advocate. He and his wife Susan formed the Baton Rouge Bromeliad Society in the early 1970s. Birdsong is now a master international bromeliad judge.

James E. Bryan Jr., ’38 B.S.F., died September 29, 2005 in Springdale, Ark. He moved there just before Hurricane Katrina struck his home town, Wiggins, Miss. A WW II and Korean Conflict veteran, he worked in forest industry and became a forestry consultant. He is survived by his wife and a son.

Dave J. DeFelice, ’38 B.S.F., died in December 2004, the School learned last fall. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe during WW II. In the late 1940s he was a teacher at Raceland, La. High School, and later he was principal of Raceland Elementary School.

Chris Dicus, ’00 Ph.D. forestry, was the featured alumnus of the Louisiana Tech University Forestry School this spring. He received his B.S. in Forestry at Louisiana Tech in 1992. He is married to Mclisa, and the couple have three children. Currently, they live in Los Osos, Calif., where he is associate professor of forestry at Cal Poly State University. He teaches wildland fire management and is president of the Los Padres chapter of the Society of American Forestry.

Bill J. Good, ’77 B.S.F., is Manager, Louisiana Geological Survey, with an office on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge. He and his wife Peggy purchased an old home eight years ago in Spanish Town, the downtown neighborhood between the State Capitol and I-110. They have restored that home.
and several others and have helped to change Spanish Town into “a true community where people know and care about each other,” Peggy said.

Claude H. “Grits” Gresham, ’49 B.S.F., ’50 M.S. Game Management, was honored in February in Las Vegas at the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoors Trades show. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the SHOT show. Gresham, famous for his outdoors writing, for many years has made his home in Natchitoches.

R. Rodney Foil, ’56 B.S.F., ’60 M.F., was inducted into the LSU Alumni Association Hall of Distinction last fall. Each year the association selects 10 alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their chosen profession. Foil earned a doctorate in forestry from Duke University. He served as a faculty member of LSU’s School of Forestry & Wildlife Management, its Agricultural Experiment Station and its Agricultural Extension Service. At Mississippi State University he was Dean of its School of Forestry and later was its Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. Among his many honors was becoming a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters and receiving the 1983 Alumnus of the Year award, LSU Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Alumni Association. He is author or co-author of many professional and scientific publications.

H. Dale Hall, ’79 M.S. fisheries, is head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

John L. Harper, ’69 B.S.F., received an award from the Louisiana Forestry Association as Tree Farm Inspector of the Year 2005.

Howard L. Helms, ’67 B.S.F., wrote the School last year from Fort Polk, La. after stumbling across the School Web site. He joined the Marine Corps and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in June 1967. After 24 years in the Marines, he retired in 1991 and taught middle school and coached high school baseball in Virginia. In 1998 he resigned from teaching and accepted a job with a defense contractor at Ft. Polk to train Army units prior to their deployment in Bosnia, Kosovo and now Iraq and Afghanistan.

Michael K. Hudson, ’81 B.S.F., Mandeville, was elected last fall to be the 3rd vice president of the Louisiana Forestry Association.

Judy Jones, ’03 M.S. wildlife, Patti Lassus Faulkner, ’81 B.S.F., ’85 M.S. forestry, and Chris Reid, ’97 B.S.F., were featured and photographed in a June 11 Baton Rouge Advocate human interest report about the Louisiana Natural Area Registry, a voluntary program that helps preserve natural habitats. Jones and Faulkner work for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Jones is coordinator of this registry, Faulkner is natural heritage program ecologist. Reid is a botanist working for the state.

Melba Robertson Linnartz, widow of Norwin E. Linnartz, ’59 M.F., died February 10 in Baton Rouge at age 77. She and Norwin are survived by two sons and their families.

Robert H. Mills, ’63 B.S.F., ’64 M.S. Game Management, was named by LSU’s Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year. Mills retired after serving many years as Wildlife and Forestry Specialist with the LSU Agricultural Center.

J. Walter Myers Jr., ’41 B.S.F., ’51 M.F., died in Atlanta, Ga. October 8, 2005. After serving 31 years as executive director of the Forest Farmers Association (now the Forest Landowners Association) he became president of the Society of American Foresters and started a consulting firm. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Thomas E. Ramke, ’40 B.S.F., died at age 88 on December 26, 2005 in Knoxville, Tenn. He had a 35-year career with the Tennessee Valley Authority, retiring in 1979 as manager of the office of Tributary Area Development.

Lambert H. Romero Sr., ’49 B.S.F., died March 31, 2006 at age 83 in Baton Rouge. For many years he worked for the Louisiana Forestry Commission, serving as Fire Control Officer until he retired in 1980. He was a WW II Army veteran and is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

Charles A. “Buck” Vandersteen has been named by the School Alumni Association’s council as an Honorary Alumnus. The Alumni Association constitution states that “Honorary members shall be persons who have rendered distinguished service to the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources and its graduates or to the professions of forestry, wildlife and fisheries management.” Buck, longtime executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association, certainly qualifies. When notified of this action, Buck said that he felt very much honored. He joins Paul Y. Burns, former School Director and Professor Emeritus, and C.B. Marlin, former School faculty member, as the only honorary alumni members in the FWF Alumni Association.

James G. Warmbrod, ’38 B.S.F., died August 12, 2002 in Jackson, Tenn. His widow notified the School last October. Warmbrod played football for LSU. After graduation, he worked in forestry for the state of Tennessee, and their son attended LSU. Mrs. Warmbrod wrote, “When we came down to LSU for a football game, I’d tell our friends I had mixed emotions as to whom I was going to pull for! Tennessee paid Jim’s salary, but he attended LSU. There is a live oak on the LSU campus near the RNR Building with a bronze plaque at the tree’s base showing its dedication to Jim’s memory.”

Got News?
E-mail Todd Shupe at tshupe@lsu.edu or Paul Burns at pyburns@lycos.com
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School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA  70803-6200
Tel (225) 578-4131
Fax (225) 578-4227

www.lsuagcenter.com
www.rnr.lsu.edu

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