Welcome to the School of Renewable Natural Resources! As you may know, effective July 1, I was appointed as the School’s new Director. I have only been in this position for the last few months, and have already learned a great deal, but also know, there is still much more to learn. I would like to thank the faculty, staff and alums for their support during this time of transition, and especially Dr. Bill Kelso for his exhaustive work as Interim Director the past two years. Bill effectively maintained his teaching and research duties, while he kept the School moving forward. I would encourage each of you to show him your appreciation.

I am pleased and honored to have been selected only the tenth Director of the School of Renewable Natural Resources since its inception in 1926. My predecessors include D. S. Lee, Gordon Marckworth, Bryant Bateman, Ralph Hayes, Paul Burns, Thomas Hansbrough, Stan Carpenter, Norwin Linnartz and Bob Blackmon. These men led the School with distinction from the earliest days of university training in forestry in the State of Louisiana to our current comprehensive teaching, research and extension programs in renewable natural resources.

My goal is to continue the School’s tradition in teaching, research and extension excellence in the basic and applied principles relevant to the management and conservation of natural resources. We will continue to produce for professional employment students who understand the historic fundamentals of their disciplines, as well as current techniques that will enhance their capabilities. Our existing undergraduate programs of study in forestry (BSF) and natural resource ecology and management (NREM) are designed to expose our students to a broad range of renewable natural resource theory and techniques. Our well-equipped graduates will be able to pursue a variety of professional options and will be sought by an expanded range of diverse employers.

Our faculty is outstanding and has much to offer the State of Louisiana. However, to become a pre-eminent natural resources school will require national and global presence. Many faculty members in the School have reached this level of research success, and others are well on their way. Overall our faculty is committed to the sustainability of renewable natural resources and management that protects the environment while maximizing harvest. Commitment to these guiding principles in our teaching, research and extension activities will serve us well into the next generation.

Because I believe that future financial development in the School will come from outside sources, I plan to be actively involved in the School’s program development. As Director I will work to promote the School and individual School faculty with funding agencies, clientele groups, stakeholders and alumni. I anticipate that many of you will want to help in these endeavors, and I certainly welcome your participation.

I look forward to working with you as I embark on this new and exciting time for the School and for me. The School has made great strides in recent years, and I believe we are on course to become one of the nation’s leading natural resources schools. My vision for the School is ambitious, but without your help we will never attain this worthy goal.

D. Allen Rutherford, Director
We’re with the government and we’re here to help you. Really, we are. Yes, you have probably either seen the sign for the “Coop Unit” or have heard people speak about it, but you may not know what we do. In this article, we hope to give you an idea of who we are and what we do. Feel free to drop by and talk to us about any of our projects.

**What is the Coop Unit?**

The USGS Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit is one of 44 Cooperative Research Units in 40 states. The Cooperative Research Units are cooperative endeavors among the U.S. Geological Survey, state game and fish agencies, Wildlife Management Institute and in several cases, including Louisiana, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program was the vision of J. N. Ding Darling. As director of the Bureau of Biological Survey (the future U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Darling pushed for the cooperative endeavor in an effort to facilitate the training of wildlife biologists and to address applied wildlife and fisheries issues at the state and regional levels. The first units were established under his direction in 1935.

In 1960, Congress passed the Cooperative Units Act, which facilitated the establishment of additional units across the United States. In 1962, a Cooperative Wildlife Unit was established at LSU followed by the establishment of a Cooperative Fishery Unit in 1963. In 1985, both units were combined into a single Fish and Wildlife Unit. In the mid-1990s, the units were moved from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Geological Survey.

**How does it work?**

As part of the cooperative agreement, the U.S. Geological Survey pays the salary of up to four scientists. The University provides office space, administrative support, and graduate faculty privileges. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provides base funds to assist the research efforts of the unit. The scientists teach graduate courses, employ students to conduct graduate research projects, serve on graduate committees and assist in basic administrative duties in the School.

**What are the advantages?**

There are several advantages to having the Cooperative Research Unit.

First, the School and University essentially receive additional graduate faculty at a relatively low cost.

Second, the research unit is able to receive certain federal funds non-competitively by transfer from another federal agency to U.S. Geological Survey, and then through a unique process the funds are able to be converted to state dollars at a relatively low overhead rate. Thus, this facilitates federal agencies transferring funds to the faculty in the School because of the non-competitive process and the low overhead rates.

Third, the LSU AgCenter provides a negotiated overhead rate to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, which also maximizes state dollars spent on wildlife and fisheries research.

Finally, the Cooperative Research Unit scientists are able to market the strengths of the School to other federal agencies that they regularly interact with and hopefully facilitate future research among federal partners and School scientists.

Currently, the Coop Unit administers a total of $3.68 million in research work orders; funds that would likely not have been available to faculty without the Coop Unit. In addition, unit scientists are currently responsible for $1.13 million in state grants and support nine graduate students.

**Sammy King, Coop Unit Leader**

Dr. Sammy King, a native of Louisiana, received a B.S. in biology from Nicholls State University, a

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**In the Spotlight**

**USGS Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit**

*by Dr. Sammy King*

This fall Dr. Sammy King and Sung-Ryong Kang (Ph.D. student) initiated research to evaluate suitability of White Lake and Marsh Island as potential reintroduction sites for the whooping crane.
M.S. in zoology and wildlife science from Auburn University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He spent five years working as a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wetlands Research Center before moving to assistant professor at the University of Tennessee for three years. He became the unit leader in February 2003.

Sammy has diverse interests in wetlands and wetland wildlife. Much of his career has been spent working on bottomland hardwood forests and associated wetlands in the Mississippi River alluvial valley. More recently, he and his graduate students have focused on a variety of wetland/waterbird issues.

Currently, Sammy has six graduate students and one research associate. He has several projects focused on waterbird use of rice and managed wetlands, including two completed and two ongoing studies with king rails. Two of his graduate students are working on bottomland hardwood projects related to habitat management for ivory-billed woodpeckers. One of his most recent projects is a habitat evaluation of White Lake and Marsh Island for the potential reintroduction of whooping cranes. This project was recently funded, and a new Ph.D. student will begin the work soon.

Sammy currently team teaches Wetlands Ecology with Dr. Andy Nyman and Floodplain Ecology with Dr. Richard Keim. Both courses are field-intensive, with students visiting numerous refuges and wildlife management areas throughout Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Sammy thoroughly enjoys teaching students in field situations and exposing them to the views of numerous field biologists throughout the region.

Al Afton, Assistant Unit Leader-Wildlife Biologist

Dr. Al Afton came to the LSU Coop Unit in July 1988 after working five years as a waterfowl research scientist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Al has been an avid waterfowl hunter since his childhood days in Kansas, where he attended Butler County Community College and completed a B.S. degree from Kansas State University. His keen interests in waterfowl led him to pursue graduate work at the University of Minnesota (M.S.) and the University of North Dakota (Ph.D.), where he studied breeding behavior of northern shoveler (M.S.) and lesser scaup (Ph.D.) in Manitoba.

Al’s research expertise is behavioral ecology and avian bioenergetics, with emphasis on waterfowl and the management of their wetland habitats. He also has interest and expertise in evaluating effects of new hunting technologies on waterfowl harvest.

As an adjunct professor, he initially taught a graduate course in waterfowl ecology and now teaches graduate courses in behavioral ecology and avian nutrition, with an occasional graduate seminar. Al especially enjoys working with talented and dedicated graduate students, and his former students have gone on to successful careers as university professors (e.g., Northwestern State University, University of Alaska, University of Iceland) and wildlife biologists for several U.S. and Canadian federal, state and non-government agencies.

Al and his graduate students have researched topics ranging from local wetland management issues, local and regional studies of variety of waterfowl and other wetland-de-
dependent species (e.g., pintails, mottled ducks, Ross’s and lesser snow geese, mallards, ring-necked ducks, passerine and other waterbirds) and studies of national and international interest, including: 1) the unique and rare musk duck in Australia, 2) effects of increasing white goose population on Canadian arctic habitats, 3) factors influencing the continental decline of scaup and 4) evaluation of effects electronic calls and spinning-wing decoys on harvest of certain waterfowl species.

Al currently has three graduate students working in his lab. Bruce Davis and Paul Link are completing their M.S. theses concerning survival and habitat use of mallards in northeast and southwest Louisiana, respectively. Jacob Gray, a new M.S. student, will be using satellite radios to investigate habitat use, survival and movements of wintering gadwall in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas.

Al is coordinating a new multi-partner project to further evaluate the importance that spring condition of females plays in the continental scaup population decline. This project uses satellite radios to track females and identify habitats used during their migration from wintering areas in Louisiana to breeding areas in northern Canada and Alaska. Readers interested in this project can find further information at www.ducks.org/scaupstudy.

**Megan La Peyre, Assistant Unit Leader - Research Fisheries Biologist**

Dr. Megan La Peyre’s research concerns the complementary goals of understanding the habitat requirements of coastal fishes and assessing coastal restoration impacts on wetland functions. Habitat is the key to an organism’s existence, and her basic research focuses on establishing habitat use of coastal fish in order to help inform management of the fishery resources, the design and implementation of wetland restoration activities to maximize fisheries benefits, and to identify quantitative indicators of wetland restoration and creation success.

Currently, students and associates in Megan’s lab are pursuing several lines of inquiry regarding fish habitat and wetland restoration. Graduate students Christopher Llewellyn and John Gordon are both examining the potential development of assays to measure coastal marshes’ support of fish. Chris is examining the use of stable isotope ecology to compare blue crab diets between wetlands restored using dredged material and reference sites located at Sabine NWR, while John is working in southwest Louisiana with the goal of developing a nekton-based index of marsh functioning. Results from both studies will prove useful in providing assays that can be added to monitoring programs, allowing a more accurate assessment of the fishery support function of marshes.

Other work currently ongoing in the lab includes the research of graduate student Bryan Piazza, who is working in Breton Sound, examining nekton response to the Caernarvon freshwater diversion, and graduate student Felixcia Mendoza-Jones, who is examining infraunal response to sediment additions and sediment re-working from hurricanes. Several other projects are examining the success of marsh restoration techniques, including thin-layer dredging in restoring and re-establishing fully functional marshes.

**Cheryl Duplechain, Administrative Coordinator**

Cheryl Duplechain is the administrative coordinator for the Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Prior to coming to the unit three years ago, she worked for St. Vincent de Paul in fundraising and coordinating events. She is still involved as a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul, making home visits to assist the needy in our community.

Cheryl is a “people” person and really enjoys interacting with the students, as well as the faculty and staff. She recently was awarded the LSU Foundation Staff Outstanding Service Award, which is presented to the top staff on the LSU campus. She is invaluable to the unit, as she is highly professional, friendly and organized, and she keeps the students (and the unit faculty) in line!
Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists Symposium Well Attended by RNR

Eight of the 17 presentations at the annual symposium of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, Aug. 9-10 in Lafayette, addressed externally funded research conducted by the School of RNR. Among the presenters from RNR were Jonathon Valente, Sammy King, Bradley Pickens, Vanessa Tobias, Andrew Nyman, Amy Scaroni, Thorpe Halloran, Allen Rutherford, Raynie Harlan, William Kelso, Rachel Walley, Richard Keim and Michael Kaller. This symposium provides biologists from state and federal agencies with the opportunity to learn about emerging research relevant to managing Louisiana’s fish and wildlife.

Six of the presentations were made by graduate students. First place prizes in the student oral and poster presentation competitions were awarded to graduate students working on RNR research projects. Thorpe Halloran won first place for his oral presentation of his dissertation research examining relationship between floodplains and fish reproduction. Hugo Gee won first place for his poster presentation of his thesis research examining the effects of flooding on regeneration of floodplain forests. A special thanks to Todd Shupe and the generous alumni for the financial support from the FWF Alumni Association to the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologist symposium.

Oral presentations made by RNR graduate students and faculty were:
- “Marsh Bird Use of Natural, Restored and Agricultural Wetland Habitat in North Louisiana,” Jonathon Valente and Sammy King.
- “Conservation Planning for the Coastal Prairie Region of Louisiana,” Bradley Pickens and Sammy King.
- “Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Louisiana: Habitat Evaluation of White Lake,” Sammy L. King, Jeb Linscombe and Phil Bowman.

Mapping Louisiana’s Coastal Forests

Coastal wetland forest sustainability continues to be an important area of research in RNR. One of the major recommendations made by the Louisiana Governor’s Science Working Group on Coastal Wetland Forest Conservation and Use was to map the extent of coastal wetland forest degradation.

Research in Dr. Richard Keim’s lab, in collaboration with Dr. DeWitt Braud of the LSU Coastal Studies Institute and Dr. Sammy King of the USGS Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, has resulted in new methods that can be used to map forest conditions from Landsat satellite images. The field methods were developed and tested first in the lower Verret Basin. RNR scientists are working with policy makers to extend this work to cover all of coastal Louisiana.

Urban Forestry Research

Dr. Hallie Dozier and graduate students Steven Wright and Metha Klock have been busy this year working on two research projects.

The first project is a study of mature urban and community tree response to flooding generated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The work, funded by the USDA National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (co-PI Jim Chambers) and the TREE Fund, examines overall mortality, survival and growth of large and medium-sized shade trees in urban and community settings. To date, most of the work has been focused in urban New Orleans. Steven Wright, master of agriculture student, is helping with data collection, analysis and developing...
educational programming based on the findings.

The second research project focuses on the development of a more complete life history description and modeling of population dynamics of one of the Southeastern United States’ worst forest weeds – Chinese privet (Ligustrum sinense). Metha Klock, master of science student, has been working with Hallie on this project since early spring.

**The Root of the Problem**

School of RNR faculty members Tom Dean and Jim Chambers and research associates Chris Allen and Melinda Hughes were recently on the front page of the New Orleans Times-Picayune newspaper. The article, titled “Foresters seek root of levee problems,” highlighted ongoing research by the School to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in gathering information on tree root growth into the outfall canal levee system in New Orleans that failed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The School’s research team, in conjunction with JESCO Environmental and GEC Consulting, examined root system encroachment into the levees and examined root extent and root behavior within the levee. Trenches were excavated within the levees at multiple distances from each sample tree, and tree root diameters and distribution were measured along the face of trench walls. Statistical analyses will eventually provide information on the probability of encountering roots of specified diameters within levees or at specified distances from the levee walls.

The research team examined eight predominant tree species found along the levee system and excavated over 200 trenches. Information related to root systems of trees growing next to the levee system will aid the Corps of Engineers in establishing a policy on where trees should be allowed to grow in proximity to the levee system.

**Understanding a Complex System: the Atchafalaya River**

The School of RNR and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana have organized a conference focusing on the complexities of the Atchafalaya River. The conference is entitled “Ecosystem Functions and the Dynamic Atchafalaya River from the Old River Control Structure to the Continental Shelf” and will be held Jan. 10, 2008.

The Atchafalaya River stretches just 135 miles from its origin to its mouth, yet the water and sediment it conveys result in impacts on thousands of square miles of south central Louisiana and coastal waters into Texas. All of the discharge of the Red River and almost 30 percent of the discharge of the Mississippi River flows through the Atchafalaya River and Basin.

The wetland forests in the basin are the largest contiguous block of wetland forests in the United States and are globally significant for ecosystem values such as carbon storage and biodiversity. The basin affects water quality and nitrogen-induced hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico (which reduces commercial fishing from Louisiana to Texas), with 14 percent of the nitrogen flowing into the basin being removed rather than discharged to the Gulf of Mexico.

The basin itself is used by commercial and recreational hunters and fishers, as well as for many non-consumptive activities (e.g., boating, canoeing, kayaking, bird watching, eco-tourism, etc.) The total economic impact of commercial finfish and crawfish within the basin has been conservatively estimated to exceed $72 million, with the economic impact of recreational hunting and fishing exceeding $265 million. The estimated economic impact of bird watching and other non-consumptive activities within the basin currently exceeds $40 million. In addition, the basin has served as a source of income for local fishermen and trappers since the 1700s. Even though the seasonally flooded habitats of the basin are sparsely populated, a unique and thriving “Cajun” culture has arisen adjacent to the basin.

The Atchafalaya River Basin is managed partly for navigation but primarily as a floodway that receives water from the Mississippi and Red rivers and is undergoing rapid geomorphic changes as it develops as a distributary. Natural processes
accelerated by human activities—such as levee construction, poorly planned water management activities, nutrient enrichment and exotic plant introductions—have contributed to water quality problems in the basin and in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, sediment input from the Atchafalaya River into backwater areas has hastened the natural succession of this economically and culturally important aquatic ecosystem.

Low dissolved oxygen levels that occur seasonally within the basin have been shown to be more widespread and remain lower longer than historic values. Little is known about how hydrologic changes from extensive water management for navigation and flood control and natural succession are affecting fisheries, nitrogen removal and carbon storage.

Understanding this complex system is difficult because it is being changed by the Atchafalaya River itself and by people, intentionally and otherwise. The purposes of this meeting are to review what is known about the river and its associated environments, to report on recent and ongoing research and to identify information gaps that complicate decision making by land managers, water managers and policy makers.

Four faculty members in the School—Bill Kelso, Richard Keim, Andy Nyman and Allen Rutherford—have on-going research projects in the basin:

- A long-term fish and water-quality monitoring program to aid in the assessment of state and federal management activities designed to restore historic conditions in the basin floodplain
- A five-year study to determine how habitat change is affecting nitrogen removal
- A five-year study to determine how carbon storage in forests is changing in the basin, as well as using new techniques to interpret satellite data to map the spatial extent of forest conditions

The information from these studies will ultimately benefit all (e.g., natural resources managers, recreational and commercial activities, eco-tourism, forest land owners, commercial fishing in the Gulf, etc.) that have historically used the enormous natural resources found in the basin and downstream of the basin.

For more information concerning the Atchafalaya River Conference, contact Andy Nyman at jnyman@lsu.edu or 225-578-4220.

Gulf Forest Soils Tour

This year’s annual Gulf Forest Soils Tour was hosted by Dr. Richard Keim of the School of RNR. This is an informal group that meets annually to learn about forest soils research and management in the western Gulf Coast.

On May 22-23, 2007, the tour visited a bottomland hardwoods site in Jean Lafitte National Park and swamp sites in Joyce Wildlife Management Area and Southeastern Louisiana University’s Turtle Cove Research Station near Manchac. Tour speakers included Stephen Faulkner of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, Gary Shaffer of Southeastern Louisiana University and Julie Whitbeck of the University of New Orleans.

Next year’s tour will also be co-hosted by RNR, as the torch has been passed to Dr. Michael Blazier, LSU AgCenter Hill Farm Research Station.

Natural Fiber and Commingled Waste Plastic Project Funded By DOE/USDA Biomass Program

An LSU AgCenter project led by Dr. Qinglin Wu in the School of RNR to make natural fiber-reinforced plastic composites using recycled plastics and wood or other agricultural fibers recently received a $791,568 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant is one of 17 given nationally for biomass research, development and demonstration projects. The LSU AgCenter grant is for research designed to enhance creative approaches in developing next-generation advanced technologies. The project aims to find technologically feasible and economically acceptable solutions for using wood and other natural fibers together with commingled waste plastics.
Because of a continuing proliferation of plastic resin types, the recycling industry cannot sort out all the contaminants – making more plastic waste. Combining waste plastics with natural fibers to produce high-quality industrial products provides a prospective solution for using biomass resources, leading to new economic development in an environmentally friendly manner. The resulting fiber-reinforced plastic composites could be used to make weather-resistant products such as roofing shingles, patio furniture, decking and other structural materials.

**Scientists Test CT Scanners On Trees**

CT scanners, used for decades to peer inside humans, are now being used on hardwood trees to detect knots, cracks and other imperfections in a bid to help lumber mills make the best possible cuts of valuable logs. Dr. Joe Chang has been working with Dr. Rado Gazo of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University on a project to demonstrate the feasibility of internal log defect scanning for sawmill applications.

During June and July, 60 hardwood logs were scanned with an X-ray CT scanner to acquire their cross-sectional images. These images are now being used to construct “virtual logs” for sawing optimization on the computer to determine the best way to saw logs into lumber maximizing the value of lumber produced from each log.

**School of RNR Well Represented at Two Major Wetland Science Meetings**

The School was well represented at two major meetings this year focusing on wetland science, management and restoration.

In April, four presentations were made in Annapolis, Maryland, at the 10th International Symposium on Wetland Biogeochemistry. In June, two presentations were made in Sacramento, California, at the 2007 Society of Wetland Scientists International Conference. The presentations were:

- Integrating Wildlife Ecology into Wetlands Ecology Courses. S.L. King and J.A. Nyman.
- Growth Response of Baldcypress to Wastewater Nutrient Additions and Changing Hydrologic Regime. R. Keim, School of RNR and C.W. Izdepski and J.W. Day Jr., LSU School of the Coast and Environment.
- Coastal Marsh Restoration Using Terraces: Effects On Waterbirds In Louisiana’s Chenier Plain. J.L. O’Connell, Tulane University, and J.A. Nyman, School of RNR.
- Denitrification in Three Habitat Types of a Large River Floodplain: Archarafaya River Basin, Louisiana, USA. A.E. Scaroni and J.A. Nyman, School of RNR, and C.W. Lindau, LSU School of the Coast and Environment.
- Effects of Nutrient Availability and Salinity on Elemental Composition of Spartina patens Muhl Leaves. V.D. Tobias and J.A. Nyman, School of RNR, R.D. DeLaune, LSU School of the Coast and Environment, and J.D. Foret, National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Forestry GIS Web Site Now Operational**

The primary purpose of this Web site is to assist foresters in preparing regeneration prescriptions, but because of the information necessary to make these decisions, the Web site is useful for a variety of needs. The Web address is http://rnr-gis.lsu.edu.

**Mottled Ducks in Gulf Coastal Wetlands**

Mottled ducks (*Anas fulvigula*) are one of the few species of ducks that breed in the state and then spend the winter here as well. In fact, they may be the equivalent of the miners’ canary for Gulf coastal ecosystems, since they rely on this habitat for their year-round needs. Aside from their importance as ecological monitors, mottled ducks are an important species in the waterfowl harvest occurring in coastal regions of Louisiana and Texas.

While never ranking among the top five most harvested species in either state, their size and wariness lead many hunters to regard them as a trophy in the daily bag. During the September special teal seasons, mottled ducks are forming pair bonds and readily decoy. But, by the regular duck season that starts in November, most mottled ducks are paired, know their home range well and show little interest in decoy spreads.

Regional and local surveys of mottled ducks tend to show different patterns for abundance, depending on the location. There seems to be a generally declining trend in Texas but a relatively stable or increasing trend in Louisiana, which combine to make a stable or slightly declining trend across the entire western Gulf coastal region. Declines coupled with continuing loss and conversion of habitats important to mottled ducks are of substantial concern to waterfowl managers in Gulf states.

Even though mottled ducks are non-migratory, we know relatively little about the important factors that control the size of this key species for coastal duck hunters. Recent scientific findings suggest that the principal causes of mottled duck mortality may be unrelated to harvest.

Reproduction and feather replacement are stressful periods for waterfowl, and it is likely that females experience greater mortality during the breeding season and molt than other times of the year. However, waterfowl researchers lack estimates of mottled duck mortality during different time periods of the annual cycle with which to test.
this idea. Researchers and managers are even less certain of most important agents of mortality for mottled ducks. Such information is crucial for effectively targeting conservation efforts to address events and time periods of the annual cycle where greatest population responses may be achieved.

Loss of critical habitat for mottled ducks likely also contributes to observed declines in the numbers, especially in Texas. However, an accurate assessment of what constitutes critical habitat for mottled ducks is not available. Without this information, waterfowl managers are unable to effectively prioritize conservation of habitats for mottled ducks.

You probably get the idea – there is much we need to know about mottled ducks to be able to adequately manage this important waterfowl resource. To bridge the information gap, Frank Rohwer and Ph.D. student Bruce Davis are collaborating with researchers from Texas A&M at Kingsville to undertake an ambitious radio telemetry research project on mottled ducks. Over a three-year period, the mottled duck team will mark over 600 females in Louisiana and Texas with radio telemetry transmitters. Telemetry will provide good measures of survival rates during differing seasons of the year. Moreover, the radio locations will allow an excellent assessment of habitat use, especially during the breeding season.

This work is funded by conservation groups like Ducks Unlimited and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, as well as both state wildlife programs and the Gulf Coast Joint Venture. We already had over 100 females marked in the first two weeks of the study, so things are going well. Most of the markings were done in August when mottled ducks were being captured for an ongoing banding study. August is the time of the year when mottled ducks tend to congregate at sites where they undergo wing molt.

So far, we don’t have much information, but stay tuned for an update next year.

Evaluating Effectiveness of New Wetland Restoration Technique

Drs. Megan La Peyre and Andy Nyman recently completed a series of independently funded research projects addressing wetland terraces, which is the newest technique in coastal wetland restoration.

Louisiana coastal wetlands stretch from Texas to Mississippi and inland for many miles. These wetlands make up approximately 40 percent of the nation’s coastal wetlands yet have experienced 80 percent of losses since the 1930s. Unlike other parts of the country, most of these wetland losses are not due to development. Instead, most marsh loss in Louisiana results from conversion of emergent marsh into shallow ponds. Several natural factors and various man-made factors are responsible.

Restoration often focuses on reintroducing fresh water and sediment from rivers to marshes because much marsh loss is attributed to the artificial separation of the marshes from the river. But in many places, especially the southwest Louisiana, marshes are too far from rivers to use river flow as a restoration technique; furthermore, in many cases, river flow was not a natural factor in the creation and survival of those marshes.

Terraces are one of the smallest scale restoration techniques available and were developed in southwestern Louisiana for restoration of coastal marshes that are too far to benefit from fresh water and sediments in the Mississippi River. Terraces are constructed by piling local sediment from the bottom of the ponds into linear ridges. They are designed to be inundated during normal high tide and support marsh vegetation similar to adjacent marshes. The ridges are not continuous; they have openings to allow water flow and movement of estuarine fish and crustaceans.

Terraces are expected to reduce wave energy in marsh ponds and thereby (1) slow erosion of adjacent

The female mottled duck being released was captured the prior night and fitted with a radio-telemetry package. A whip antenna of the radio package can be seen by the student assistant’s left forearm. The bird was caught as a flightless bird - only partially developed primary wing feathers (by the student’s left hand). The technique called night-lighting, involves a loud boat (airboat) and bright lights to confuse the birds allowing close proximity and capturing of the stunned ducks.
Student Researchers Find Cleanliness Appears Overrated

by Dr. Frank Rohwer

The ruby-throated hummingbird migration is on. Most of the millions of ruby-throats that breed in eastern North America are going to be passing through the Gulf Coast on their way to wintering areas in Central America.

Put a hummingbird feeder just about anywhere in south Louisiana this time of year and you should have a transient hummer take up territorial defense in a matter of minutes to hours. If you watch the feeder a few days, you will notice that the defending individual will change every few days. Presumably your hummer packed on sufficient fat to continue the southern trip, and a replacement bird took over as boss of the feeder.

If you really get into the hummingbird spectacle, you may find yourself with a couple dozen feeders spread around your yard. That is when you begin to wonder – Just how often do I need to replace the sugar-water food and clean the feeder? “Google” that question, and you will find countless sources that suggest anywhere from every three to seven days, depending on whether it is hot. OK, that is stupid – it is always hot in Louisiana during hummer migration time.

Wait. Wait. Now it is time for some science. When you dig a little deeper and look at reliable peer-reviewed science (the kind we advocate to our students), you find something interesting. There is no published science on this topic. Sure, countless Internet sources say to clean feeders regularly, but it appears to be opinion and not based on scientific testing.

Good news, Wildlife Management Techniques (RNR 4011) students are pushing back the frontiers of knowledge with experiments on food preference. OK, maybe it won’t win a Nobel Prize, but students are testing the hypothesis that hummers prefer fresh food over older food. This work serves two purposes. First, the answer may be of interest to bird-feeding folks who get sick of washing hummingbird feeders. More importantly, this is a great way to teach students the process of science.

Most students spend four years learning the products of science – the key knowledge of their specialized field of study. However, most undergraduates really learn very little about the scientific process. The best way to learn how to do anything is to try doing it – hence the focus on doing some actual science in this senior-level class.

At least three cohorts of 4011 students have been involved in research on hummingbird food preference. The students set up paired feeders – one feeder with fresh food and the second feeder with food that ranges between five and 15 days old. They then do shifts of two-hour observations to see which of the two feeders the birds prefer.

By now you surely want to know the punch line – do the birds reject older food? It turns out that ruby-throated hummingbirds are a lot less finicky than Internet sources suggest. Birds don’t start showing a clear preference for fresh food unless the old food is two weeks old. For me, that means a lot less tedium at the kitchen sink washing hummingbird feeders.

So you are skeptical? Good. That is how science progresses. Maybe the birds keep using old food, but it really isn’t good for their health. Time for more student-driven science.

This fall a set of six enterprising RNR students will tackle that more difficult question with the help of research funding they were awarded by Dr. Ken Koonce, Dean of Agriculture. The students will gauge whether birds feeding on fresh food are in better health than birds feeding on the 14-day-old food.

To assess health, we need to make one assumption – that a fat hummer is a happy hummer. Remember, this is migration season and the birds in Baton Rouge are on a refueling stopover. That means the birds are trying to gain fat so they can continue their southern trip; hence the assumption that fat is good is probably pretty safe.

The six student researchers who are undertaking this project should have some reliable data to report in the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

Emergent marsh, (2) increase the abundance of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the pond and (3) initiate growth of emergent vegetation on the terraces and in adjacent shallow open water.

In the last 10 years, terraces have become a common restoration and mitigation technique in coastal Louisiana and Texas and were recently constructed as part of a wetland restoration project in San Francisco Bay. But the technique is so new that there have been few studies of their effectiveness.
From 2001 through 2006, Megan and Andy secured $264,355 for four studies from funding agencies: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited and the Coastal Restoration Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) program. The studies were designed to compare SAV, nekton and waterbirds (wading birds, waterfowl, and shorebirds) between marsh ponds restored with terraces and unrestored marsh ponds.

These studies indicated that terraced ponds had more SAV than unterraced ponds, had more abundant fish and crustaceans than unterraced ponds, had different species of fish and crustaceans than unterraced ponds and supported more abundant and diverse waterbird populations than unterraced ponds. These findings confirm that the same goals set for terraced ponds, such as those constructed by Ducks Unlimited, are being met.

The studies were not designed to determine if marsh around terraced ponds erodes more slowly than marsh around unterraced ponds, because such differences are expected to be too small to measure in the few years that terraces have existed.

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Megan’s other research focus lies in developing indicators of nekton communities for assessing restoration success. Master’s student Chris Llewellyn is examining the use of stable isotopes as a means to assess the food dynamics in restored and reference marshes. Master’s student John Gordon is developing an indicator of nekton community status that can be used costwide in brackish marsh.

Andy is working with two Ph.D. students. Amy Scaroni (M.S., Charleston College) is determining how the Atchafalaya River Basin removes nitrogen from river water before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico. Nitrogen from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers is the primary cause of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. Vanessa Tobias (M.S., Michigan State University) is evaluating new techniques to determine which coastal wetlands will benefit from the nutrients and fresh water in river water. Uncertainty regarding the extent of benefits of restoring river flow to coastal marshes complicates selecting which restoration ideas should be implemented.

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a 550+-mile, 7-day cycling course that traveled from Sacramento to San Jose, California. The tour raises funds to support the TREE Fund (Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund) which supports tree and arboricultural research and provides scholarships for college students majoring in tree care-related fields.

This year’s tour, dubbed “the Shade Crusade,” began July 20 with a “Capitol” sendoff from Sacramento, and then the riders pedal north to Clearlake. The tour ended with a grand celebration in San Jose in July. Hallie even appeared in a television segment of “Your Green Report” from KBWB TV-20 in San Francisco.

Hallie is only the second Louisiana rider to participate in this event, although this year she met another rider, Janet Collier of Seattle, Washington, who is originally from Ponchatoula. It didn’t take Hallie long to get Collier sounding like a southerner again.

Thanks to contributions, Hallie was able to raise $4,055 for the TREE Fund.

**A Premier Event**

For many years Louisiana State University hosted the premiere forestry education event in the South, known as the LSU Forestry Symposium. That symposium series had been inactive for several years, but a recent surge of interest has led us to reinstitute the symposium in 2005.

The new symposium has a new title that is more contemporary and reflective of the integration of all the natural resource disciplines. Accordingly, the topics and sessions of the symposium were selected to include the broad array of natural resource policy, management and utilization issues that are critically important in the Southeast.

The 2007 symposium was held on August 13-14 at the Lod Cook Conference Center on the LSU campus and featured papers from leading international experts covering cutting-edge issues related to human and other impacts on natural resources. The audience included land managers, foresters, landowners, academicians and those interested in our great natural resources. A comprehensive and professional proceedings was provided to all registrants.

**Ricky Kilpatrick, a Gold Star**

Northwest extension agent and area forester Ricky Kilpatrick was honored with a Gold Star during the Project Learning Tree’s (PLT) 21st International Coordinators’ Conference in Wichita, Kansas, on May 11, 2007. The PLT Gold Star Award is the highest honor bestowed to a PLT program coordinator in recognition of their years of exemplary service to Project Learning Tree.

Ricky works with parish school systems, individual schools and universities to make PLT a part of their curriculum. He supports the development of outdoor classrooms and learning stations using PLT as a focus. He has conducted nearly 100 PLT professional development workshops for educators and plans and participates in PLT facilitator training every year.

Ricky is chair of Louisiana PLT’s state steering committee and contributes to the state PLT newsletter. Each year he attends PLT’s International Coordinators’ Conference and helped host it in Louisiana in 1993. Congrats Ricky, and keep up the good work!

**Dr. Shilling’s Notes on Continuing Ed**

Continuing education in forestry is an important element in extension. Dr. Charles Shilling has been active in that area for the past five years. Most recently, in May 2007, Dr. Shilling supported the efforts of Steven Hotard of the LSU AgCenter and Wayne Roberts of NRCS in the conduct of a hardwood workshop in northeast Louisiana.

A most notable faculty presented the workshop: Drs. John Hodges, Andy Ezell and Randy Rousseau of Mississippi State University, Drs. Emile Gardiner and Brian Lockhart of the USFS Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research, Dr. Jim Dickson of Louisiana Tech University, Dr. Wayne Clatterbuck of the University Tennessee, Wayne Roberts of NRCS and Don Anderson, a biologist with Delta Wildlife Consulting. Landowners Bill Burks and Carl Smith hosted the group of about 75 professional land managers and landowners on their properties to view an assortment of artificially regenerated hardwood stands.

In June 2007, Charles directed 32 4-H students in a two-day educational event dealing with threats to the environment. Students reported their findings in written reports and PowerPoint presentations. Drs. Allen Rutherford, Quang Cao and Andy Nyman evaluated the student presentations.

Charles also supported Ed Robichaux and Alan Small of the...
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the conduct of two workshops in July 2007, in which 42 participants earned their certification as Prescribed Burn Managers. Also in July, he enlisted Dr. Quang Cao of the School of RNR to conduct workshops dealing with beginning and intermediate skills in the application of Excel in forestry. The 26 participants were professional foresters.

Charles has been involved in eight workshops at various times this year in which 256 loggers and foresters have explored the topics of leadership and professional ethics to retain their Master Logger designation. Activities for the remainder of this calendar year and into 2008 can be found on Charles’ continuing education Web site at www.rnr.lsu.edu.

New Faculty at Calhoun Research Station

The Calhoun Research Station is developing a new program on Closed-loop Recycling of Decommissioned Preservative-Treated Wood. Two new faculty members have been hired into the program. The focus will be to develop environment friendly and economically viable products and methods to recycle decommissioned preservative-treated wood. These new faculty members will interact closely with the School of RNR and the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center faculty in Baton Rouge and Ruston.

Dr. Cheng Piao joined the Calhoun Research Station’s faculty on February 1, 2007, as an assistant professor of wood science. He specializes in recycling decommissioned preservative-treated wood into structural wood composites that can be widely used in outdoor industrial applications.

Cheng is an LSU alumnus who received his master of forestry, master of system science and doctor of forestry degrees from LSU. Before attending LSU, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in wood science from Northeast Forestry University in China.

Dr. Hui Pan joined the Calhoun Research Station faculty on October 1, 2007, as an assistant professor of wood chemistry. She has conducted research on wood liquefaction for four years during her Ph.D. study at LSU. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northeast Forestry University in China and will receive her Ph.D. from LSU this fall.

Hui’s research at Calhoun will focus on recycling preservative treated wood by thermochemical and hydrothermal methods. She also is working on the development of high-value-added products from recycled preservative-free wood, such as wood adhesives, chemicals and bio-fuel.

They both look forward to working with all sectors of the forest products industry and invite interested parties to stop by the Calhoun Research Station or call them at (318) 644-2662.

Dr. Cheng Piao, Assistant Professor of Wood Science

Dr. Hui Pan, Assistant Professor of Wood Chemistry

International Crossings

Taiwan

Drs. Todd Shupe, Qinglin Wu and Rich Vlosky will be traveling to Taipei, Taiwan, in late October to attend the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) All Division 5-Wood Products Conference. All are deputy leaders of various IUFRO working parties. The three will be making presentations and coordinating sessions at the conference.

Germany

In early July, Dr. Joe Chang taught a two-week-long Ph.D. summer school on Economic Efficiency in Forestry: Faustmann Thinking from Basic Skills to Advanced Applications. Joe was invited by the Tharandt Forestry School of the Technical University of Dresden to teach a group of Ph.D. students from Europe and Africa.

Australia

July 9-13, 2006, Dr. Richard Keim and M.S. student Blake Amos traveled to Cairns, Queensland, Australia, to present research at the Catchments to Coast joint conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Australian Marine Sciences Association. Blake presented his work comparing growth responses of baldcypress to hydrological changes in the Atchafalaya and Lake Verret basins in Louisiana, and Richard gave an invited presentation about the findings and recommendations of the Louisiana Governor’s Science Working Group on Coastal Wetland Forest Conservation and Use. Cairns is in tropical north Queensland, where wetlands are inhabited by crocodiles; both Richard and Blake returned home thankful for the comparatively tame alligators in Louisiana.

Thailand

Dr. Terrence Tiersch of the Aquaculture Research Station has just returned from a two-week trip to Thailand. Terry was invited by the Southeast Asian Fisheries
Development Center to serve as instructor and resource person for a regional training program in sperm cryopreservation of freshwater fishes held in Pathumthani, near Bangkok. Ten countries were represented in the training, which addressed food security, poverty alleviation through small-scale aquaculture and conservation of endangered species through the use of frozen sperm. During the trip Terry also met with former research collaborators at Kasetsart University (from trips made in the mid-1990s to freeze sperm of the Mekong giant catfish) and colleagues at the Thai Department of Fisheries and the Asian Institute of Technology.

Canada

Dr. Thomas J. Dean was invited to serve as an external examiner of a dissertation submitted by a doctoral candidate in the University of Alberta’s Department of Renewable Resources in Edmonton, Canada. He also presented a seminar titled, Analysis of the growth of young pine trees within the context of hierarch theory.

Nepal

Puskar Nath Khanal arrived on campus from the Kingdom of Nepal to begin a Masters of Science in Forestry. He is the recipient of a Gilbert Foundation Fellowship. Puskar received his B.S. in forestry from Tribhuvian University in Pokhara, Nepal, in 2002 and has been leading several projects in Nepal, mostly related to sustainable forest management.

Pakistan

Dr. Amer H. Shah, a visiting scientist from Pakistan, is working with Drs. Jim Chambers and Richard Keim in the School to gain additional research experiences and exchange knowledge of forested systems with RNR faculty. Amer completed his Ph.D. in the Department of Forestry, Range Management and Wildlife at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. His dissertation research involved testing the compatibility of several forest species with native species in the saline soils of the central Punjab region of Pakistan. Amer is participating in research on baldcypress growth and environmental changes in a section of the Joyce Wildlife Management Area near Lake Mau-repas. He will spend about six months with the School before returning to a faculty position in Pakistan.

Southeast Europe

Dr. Richard Vlosky, director of the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center in the LSU AgCenter, helped coordinate and make presentations at a number of conferences across southeast Europe. Dubrovnik, Croatia, was the setting for an international seminar, Marketing in Forestry and Wood Processing, held in December 2006. Organized by a partnership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization (UNECE/FAO) Timber Section, the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and the Center for Marketing and Development in the Wood Industry, the meeting was targeted at professionals to improve their understanding of forest products marketing and how it might help their business, education program or government agency.

In April 2006, the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, the Universities of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, and the LSU AgCenter co-sponsored a workshop, Forest Products Marketing – from Principles to Practice in Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro. Attracting over 40 people from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR...
Macedonia and Romania as well as Serbia and Montenegro, this four-day workshop examined marketing principles and reviewed markets in the region.

After the conference, Rich gave graduate student seminars at the University of Belgrade in Serbia and Montenegro and at the Department of Horticulture & Forestry at Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Timisoara, Romania. Shortly after this visit, department forestry faculty and dean voted to make Rich an associate professor.

In October 2005, Rich participated in a similar workshop in Prague and Krtiny, Czech Republic. This workshop titled Capacity Building in Sharing Forest and Market Information was attended by government, academic and industry representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Rich is also the leader of the team of specialists on forest products markets and marketing, UNECE/FAO in Geneva, Switzerland, and deputy leader of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Research Group on Forest Products Marketing and Business Development.

Renewable Natural Resources Researchers Study Threats to Amazonian Birds

by Dr. Phil Stouffer

Amazonian rainforests hold the world’s most diverse bird communities, with some sites hosting over 200 species in an area the size of Tiger Stadium. Unfortunately, many of these species disappear from fragments of forest isolated by agriculture or logging.

Since 1991, RNR associate professor Dr. Phil Stouffer has been studying how landscape change in Amazonia affects bird communities. In June and July of 2007, he and RNR Ph.D. student Erik Johnson surveyed birds in 11 rainforest fragments at the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project north of Manaus, Brazil.

The repeated surveys at this site, beginning in 1979, have shown how bird communities in the fragments change depending on land use in the surrounding landscape. This summer’s research marked the beginning of a five-year study sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Together with researchers at INPA, Brazil’s National Institute for Research in Amazonia, the LSU team will examine area requirements, use of secondary forest and the physical condition of birds in fragments. They’ll compare results from fragments with what they find in control areas in continuous forest.

The work involves mist netting, radiotracking and spot mapping. Identification of birds by their vocalizations is especially important, as many species are seldom seen. In addition to its direct relevance to Amazonian birds in the face of increasing development in the region, this research can also be applied more generally to forest birds in fragmented landscapes, such as the southeastern United States.
Who’s Who

Allen Rutherford Named as New Director for the School of Renewable Natural Resources

Congratulations to Dr. D. Allen Rutherford for accepting the position of Director of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. After a long and arduous search period, the School is pleased to welcome Dr. Rutherford to the position.

Recently named as the Bryant A. Bateman Distinguished Professor in Renewable Natural Resources, Allen has served as a Professor of Fisheries and Coordinator of Graduate Studies and Research in the School during the past 22 years at LSU. He has authored many scientific and technical publications, advised numerous graduate students, secured over $8 million in grants and contracts, and taught several courses including Natural Resource Ecology, Ichthyology and Biology of Fishes. His primary research and teaching interests have been in topics relating to larval, juvenile and adult fish ecology.

Because of Allen’s long and dedicated history of participation in the School, he brings a unique knowledge and understanding of the School’s inner workings. His experience will be invaluable for the future success of the School in teaching, research and extension.

The School of Renewable Natural Resources is pleased to have Allen assume the leadership position of director. His position became effective, July 1, 2007.

Dr. Mike Chamberlain is the incoming editor-in-chief of the Journal of Wildlife Management and is responsible for overseeing the scientific review process for the focal publication of the Wildlife Society.

Andy Nyman takes his research to Washington D.C., - Twice!

Dr. Andy Nyman was one of seven people who met at the Pentagon with J.P Woodley Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), to promote integrated watershed management of the Mississippi River watershed. On May 1 the group met to discuss how watershed-wide resource management could improve the efficiency of numerous efforts by state and federal agencies to deal with excessive sedimentation that threatens navigation and wetlands in the northern portions of the watershed, inadequate sedimentation that threatens wetlands and flood protection in the southern portion of the watershed and hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Others attending the meeting were Andrew Hagelin, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); Ed Theriot, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; John C. Marlin Ph.D., Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Len Bahr, Louisiana Governors Office; David Weiman, Agricultural Resources; and Amos Eno, Resources First Foundation.

Andy was invited by the Louisiana Governor’s Office due to his research into the response of coastal wetlands to sea-level rise and the role of coastal wetlands in coastal water quality. This was the second year that SWS had hosted educational opportunities on Capitol Hill for congressional staffers.

Andy is an associate professor in the School and is currently serving as past-president of the South Central Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. For more information regarding Andy’s research, visit www.rnr.lsu.edu/nyman.

Dr. Mike Kaller recently joined the faculty as a research assistant professor. Mike’s current research focuses on a diversity of aquatic ecology and fisheries issues, including the food habits of Gulf sturgeon, energetic linkages between terrestrial and aquatic environments, development of bioassessment protocols and application of emerging data analytical techniques in ecology and management.

Mike originally came to the School in 2001 as a Ph.D. student studying the relationship between stream habitat and water chemistry characteristics and aquatic organisms and was a post-doctoral researcher at the School
from 2005-2007. Prior to arriving at the School, his research included studying the influence of forest and forested road management on headwater stream fishes and invertebrates, recreational fisheries of the Green River and Finger Lakes region of Wyoming and sea lamprey control, as well as aquaculture and fisheries management in the Great Lakes.

Yale Invites Coastal Wetland Forest Lecture from RNR

Dr. Richard Keim gave two invited lectures at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in October 2006, including talks on sustainability of coastal wetland forests as part of the Curtis and Edith Munson Marine Conservation Lecture Series, and on forest canopy interactions with rainfall at the Yale Forest Forum.

Dr. Todd Shupe Elected as a Fellow to the International Academy of Wood Science

Dr. Todd Shupe, professor of wood science, was recently informed he has been elected a Fellow to the International Academy of Wood Science. The academy was founded and given its name in Paris, June 2, 1966. It is a nonprofit assembly of wood scientists, recognizing all fields of wood science with their associated technological domains, and securing a worldwide representation.

Fellows are nominated by an existing Fellow and voted on by all Fellows. The title of Fellow in the Academy is a highly regarded honor for all wood scientists. Todd was nominated for his past and continuing efforts in the fields of wood quality and closed-loop recycling of decommisioned preservative-treated wood.

RNR Faculty Member Serves on LFA Board

Dr. Richard Vlosky, Louisiana State University, serves on the Louisiana Forestry Association Board. Based in Alexandria, the association is a statewide, private, nonprofit association made up of more than 3,500 members, mostly large and small landowners along with foresters, employees of forest products industries, wood suppliers, loggers and related industries.

New Extension Specialist

Dr. Charles E. Clément has joined the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center (LFPDC) as a full-time outreach and extension specialist.

Charles will work with LFPDC researchers and Extension faculty to develop a value-added wood products extension program focusing on technology transfer of research in utilization of wood products and innovative new products and processes to the Louisiana industry. His education includes a Ph.D. in forest products & industrial engineering from Purdue University and M.S. and B.S degrees in wood science from Laval University.

Charles has a wealth of experience as a private consultant as well as previous employment with the Texas Forest Service, the Tennessee Forest Products Center at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Forintek Canada Corporation.

Christina “Tina” Bienvenu Dawson is our new administrative coordinator 3 and is purchaser for the School. She was born and raised in St. Martinville, La., and received a B.S. in education from LSU as a speech, hearing and language pathologist. She was employed on campus from 1996 to 2000 in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions but most recently worked as personnel assistant with the U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Division.

Tina was instrumental in the hiring of more than 840 employees to work disaster assistance following hurricanes Katrina and Rita and was acknowledged and awarded by SBA’s Human Resources Department for her dedication to the cause. Tina enjoys aerobics at the YMCA, outdoor activities, music and the arts.

Kimberlee L. Collins is the new accountant I for the School of RNR. She comes to the School with seven years of experience in accounting. For the past five years she has worked as a student worker at the school in the accountant and purchasing office. She left in 2005 to complete an internship at Cathy H. Scott CPA, CFP, LLC. There she handled business/individual income taxes and accounting and assisted with payroll, investment and retirement accounts. In her spare time she enjoys reading about different investment options and new tax rules and of course, shopping.

Linda Jeansonne is the administrative coordinator for the Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, which includes five faculty members, research associates, graduate students and several post-docs.
Prior to her position at the School of RNR, she worked for many years in accounting, and later, while raising three children, she remained very active substitute teaching at various Baton Rouge public schools and performing volunteer work with various local organizations including the Audubon Girl Scouts Council, Baton Rouge Zoo, EBRPSS and Volunteers of American. Additional course work included classes through BRCC, LSU Continuing Education and LSU Leisure Studies. A native of Baton Rouge, Linda enjoys traveling, hiking, museums and art shows.

**New Fisheries Specialist**

Dr. Glenn Thomas became the new Sea Grant/AgCenter statewide fisheries specialist and associate professor in the School of RNR in January. After spending 11 years with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Glenn became a regional fisheries extension agent three years ago.

“I’ve been studying and working with fish and aquatic habitats since my undergraduate years in the late 1970s,” Glenn said.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Augusta State University in Georgia, his master’s in wildlife and fisheries science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and his doctorate in wildlife and fisheries science from LSU.

“This position provides the rare opportunity to prioritize research and extension goals and then provides the support to accomplish them,” he said. “In this new role, I want to bring important information on fishery science to the public to improve decision making, as well as accomplish some practical research.”

His public information efforts currently include a statewide subscription fisheries newsletter and a monthly column in 14 newspapers. Research projects involve aquatic invasive species and marine fisheries bycatch.

**So-Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Good-bye...**

Well, another era has ended here in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. After more than 17 years, Dr. Mike Stine has packed up his office and moved to Tallahassee, Florida, to join his wife, Bonnie (who has taken a position with the State of Florida).

Mike came to LSU from the “frozen north” to join the forestry faculty in the area of forest genetic improvement. He established a state-of-the-art lab able to support research into the molecular genetics of forest trees. His research, and that of his graduate students, included longleaf, slash and loblolly pine; cottonwood; sycamore; baldcypress; water hickory; and pecan.

Mike’s lab housed the Li-Cor Automated DNA Analysis System, which led to collaborative work with other faculty members within RNR in the molecular genetics of a number of wildlife species, including Louisiana black bear, American alligator, white-tailed deer and Henslow’s sparrows. In addition, graduate students, visiting faculty and several undergraduates from both RNR and other departments...
While in the company of students and colleagues, Dr. Stine enjoyed both good food and conversation at his farewell "tailgating" party held at the School.

were welcome to use the lab and were trained in molecular techniques. Studies on the molecular genetics of rice, sweet potato, cotton, sugar-cane, marsh grasses and even coffee also have been completed in the lab.

During the course of his stay here, Mike was well-known for his teaching. His class list included Forest Genetics (of course), Conservation Genetics, Integrated Natural Resource Management and Policy, Seminar, Conservation of Forest Resources and the all-time favorite of many – Dendrology. His latest claim to fame is the establishment of the website "Louisiana Ecosystems and Plant Identification: An Interactive Virtual Tour" (http://www.mnr.lsu.edu/plantid). It features 360-degree interactive images of ecosystems of Louisiana with over 260 individual species pages with high-resolution images of the major plant characteristics. The ongoing project is funded by the LDAF Urban Forestry Grant program.

We wish Mike the best as he continues his exploits in Florida! We will certainly miss his passion for teaching, his intensity about the issues of renewable natural resources, his great talents as a chef and his sense of humor! Good Luck, Mike!! And don’t forget to wear sunscreen as you work on that tan!

If you want to reach Mike, you can email him at: cornus1958@gmail.com.

In the office at Lee Memorial Forest, a poster on the wall has a map of Hurricane Katrina’s path. Almost directly in the center of the path is Washington Parish and Lee Memorial Forest. Last fall an article by Joe Neheilig discussed the impact and damage that Lee Memorial sustained. Now, two years later, signs of recovery are evident throughout the Lee Memorial forests.

One of the first things a visitor will see next to the office is a charming field of wildflowers. If you had not been there before Katrina, you would never know that the area was once surrounded with trees. Along the entrance road to the forest is an area mottled with young longleaf pine seedlings. The young seedlings are in the grass stage and look to the untrained eye like the grass around them. The staff gives the seedlings a head start by applying herbicide in the area immediately surrounding the seedling to keep down competition. This area was also mature timber before the storm, but now it is being reforested with the somewhat rare longleaf pine.

As I rode around Lee Memorial with Joe, the signs of the storm’s damage were still evident, but many signs of recovery overshadowed the old scars. For example, the facilities were all repaired and showed no signs of the previous damage. The property has a nice new fence around it and all of the roads are clear and accessible. The staff also has been using prescribed fire to help with the recovery, and Joe informed me that this has been one of their most useful tools. The staff has been using spring night burns to reduce the fuel load and suppress the underbrush. By burning at night the temperatures are kept down, and the spring foliage is knocked back more efficiently. Also, water bars have been installed on all of the fire lanes to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

While all of these signs show a recovering forest, there are still areas that show the impact of Katrina’s winds. In one of the longleaf pine areas, the saplings are bent in contorted arches due to the winds. The area (Continued on page 27)
And this year’s award winners are:

Dr. Nianfu Song was recently honored by having his dissertation selected by the LSU Graduate School as one of the outstanding LSU dissertations for the academic year 2006. Nianfu received his doctoral degree in forest economics and management under Dr. Joseph Chang in August 2006.

Congratulations to Phil Saska, April Mason and Thorpe Halloran for winning the competitive Sigma Xi Behre Writing Prize and Grants-in-Aid Awards! The winners were honored guests at the Sigma Xi spring banquet held in April at the LSU Union Atchafalaya Room. The recipients received award amounts between $75 and $500 each.

Congratulations to Will Degravelles for winning the 2007 Xi Sigma Pi Regional Scholarship. Xi Sigma Pi is the National Forestry Honor Society. LSU students have done very well in the past in winning this award, which covers the West Central region of eight universities.

Priyan Perera, a master’s student studying with Dr. Richard Vlosky, has been selected by the Louisiana State University Chapter of the Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta, as one of the outstanding graduate students in the College of Agriculture. Priyan will receive the Graduate Student Scholarship Award of Merit. Priyan was recognized and presented with a certificate of recognition at the Gamma Sigma Delta annual banquet held on April 19, 2007.

The LSU Chapter has been recognized as the Outstanding International Chapter ten times since 1989, most recently in 2006.

Two Crest Scholarship Winners

April Mason and Fugui Wang recently received the 2006-2007 Crest Scholarships, a program funded by National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). April’s proposal was entitled Determination of denitrification capacity of Atchafalaya River Basin wetlands using isotopic tracers and Fugui’s, Utilization of satellite imagery for determination of spatiotemporal salinity distribution in Lake Pontchartrain. Both went through a very competitive process to obtain these scholarships. Congratulations April and Fugui!

Outstanding Student!

Francisco X. Aguilar, who graduated with a Ph.D. in May 18, 2007, under Professor Richard Vlosky, has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Forestry, School of Natural Resources, at the University of Missouri. Francisco, a former Ben and Pauline Stanley Excellence Award recipient, will have research and teaching responsibilities focusing in the areas of forest sector economics and natural resources policy.

TMDL Meeting in San Antonio Attended by RNR Students

Three RNR graduate students – Adrienne Viosca, April Mason and Philip Saska – presented at the 4th National Watershed/Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, March 10-14, 2007. The meeting was organized by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Papers included were: Improving TMDL Determinations through Assessment of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities (Viosca), Comparison of Stream Nutrient Conditions in a Subtropical Lowland Watershed to EPA Suggested Criteria (Mason), Streamflow and Nutrient Dependence of Temperature Effects on Dissolved Oxygen in Low-Order Forest Streams (Mason) and The Influence of Intermittent Stream Hydrology on Target TMDLs (Saksa).

High Tech Lab

Using funds provided by the College of Agriculture, the School recently upgraded the computer lab in Room 214 with 31 new desktop computers and monitors. Room 214 is the primary computing facility for the School and is available to undergraduate and graduate students daily. The lab was created in 2004 using funds supplied by the Student Technology Fee.

Dr. Mike Chamberlain and Henry “Paco” Capello were primarily responsible for establishing the lab initially. However, computers become obsolete quickly, and technological advances in computer software require consistent upgrades to computing resources. Mike and Paco spent much of 2007 exploring options for replacing the computers in the lab and wrote a proposal outlining the importance of the lab to RNR students and faculty.

The School is grateful to Dr. Ken Koonce, dean of the College of Agriculture, for his continued support of RNR, and for providing support to upgrade the facility to ensure that it serves RNR students appropriately. Our students greatly appreciate it!
Club News

Aquaculture and Fisheries Club
The 2006-2007 school year marked a highly successful period for the Aquaculture and Fisheries Club. Executive officers for this term were Arie Roth, Rafael Cuevas, Kevin Melody and Jennifer Anderson.

The club was very active this last year adding a trip to the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans to their usual slate of activities, which included the 16th annual pig roast and 19th annual crawfish boil. Since 2002, both of the events have been held jointly with the School’s student chapters of The Wildlife Society.

The club also held a highly successful raffle at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society along with the student groups the LSU Marine Environmental Researchers and the Nicholls State Biology Society.

The club is expecting a great year in 2007-2008 and is inviting all alumni to the 20th anniversary crawfish boil in spring 2009.

LSU Chapter SAF
At the beginning of the fall 2006 semester, the LSU chapter of the Society of American Foresters had one goal. They simply wanted to make the club better than when they joined. In every respect, this ambitious goal was achieved. Though their membership is still humbly small, their numbers have doubled, and so has their activities.

During the past year, LSU SAF’s new activities included hosting a forum on cypress logging with the Southeast Louisiana chapter of SAF, kicking off the Forestry X-games where the members competed in everything from log rolling to crosscut sawing, and beginning a volunteer management plan for a local Boy Scouts of America campground.

The club was still involved with their yearly activities such as the Christmas tree sale in December and the LSU AgCenter’s Ocean Commotion. LSU SAF is currently preparing for the National SAF Convention in Portland, Oregon.

LSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society
In 2007 the LSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society continued on its mission to promote excellence among RNR students through education, exposure and fellowship in the natural resources arena.

The spring semester was filled with volunteer efforts, fundraising events and competitions. We began with the appointing of our first executive board member, Michael Williams (currently serving as president), and a bird-watching trip to Sherburne Wildlife Management Area. Followed closely was our first-ever Bluebird Nest Box fundraising event, which was a great success thanks to RNR faculty, students and their families. We also volunteered at the Louisiana Black Bear Festival at Bayou Tech National Wildlife Refuge where our members assisted in educating students on the life cycle of the Louisiana Black Bear.

Other volunteer efforts included our first appearance at Earth Day in downtown Baton Rouge where, with the hard work of our secretary, Amanda Fandal, we educated grade school children on the importance of wetlands and wildlife in Coastal Louisiana. In February we held our first “Conclave Boot Camp” on the parade grounds of LSU to prepare our members for 2007 Southeastern Conclave in Athens, Georgia.

In March we attended Conclave with 11 students, and made great progress in our attempts to establish our position as a competitor among other schools in the southeast. Our quiz bowl team gave its best performance of the last three years. It was a first-time experience for most of those who attended Conclave; however, our members competed with an unparallel enthusiasm and optimistic attitude.

We wrapped up the semester with our first annual Spring Banquet where we said goodbye to seniors, announced new officers, gave away raffle prizes and dined on a wide variety of wildlife delicacies. We made great progress in the spring semester and will undoubtedly continue to do so with our newly elected officers Mike Williams (president), Lauren Hart (vice president), Casey Gray (secretary), Merri Hull (treasurer) and our recently appointed advisor, Dr. Frank Rohwer.
RNR Students Bring SWS Student Chapter to LSU

Vanessa Tobias and Amy Scaroni, who are Wildlife and Fisheries Ph.D. students under Dr. Andy Nyman, recently founded the first student chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists at LSU. The chapter is interdepartmental, and charter members include both graduate and undergraduate students from RNR, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences and Environmental Studies.

The mission of the student chapter coincides with the national mission to “promote understanding, scientifically based management and sustainable use of wetlands.” Additional service activities will focus on community involvement, and strive to promote stewardship of local wetlands.

The new student chapter at LSU joins existing ones at Duke, University of Florida and Michigan Tech. Partnerships with these SWS chapters will allow students to network with colleagues from across the country. Support from the national SWS organization and the University’s Center for Student Leadership and Involvement will assist in sending student members to the regional and international SWS conferences, where they can present their research to the wetland community.

For more information, please contact Vanessa Tobias (vtobia1@lsu.edu) or Amy Scaroni (ascar1@lsu.edu).

Graduate Coursework Leads to Rio Grande River

Once again, students enrolled in Drs. King and Nyman’s Management and Restoration of Wetland Function course visited numerous natural, managed and restored wetlands. Field trips in that class are based upon on-site discussions with managers at various wetlands managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy.

A crucial part of that course consists of a five-day field trip down the Texas coast to the Rio Grande River.

“We could travel twice as far to the east, but we wouldn’t see as much wetland variety because of the tremendous gradients in rainfall and river discharge between the Mississippi River and the Rio Grande River,” says Dr. King.

Such a trip depends upon the time and resources of several hosts, such as the Clive Runnels Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve and the Lennox Foundation Southmost Preserve operated by The Nature Conservancy, and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This fall’s trip also depended upon a generous donation by Scott Nesbit and Natural Resource Professionals, LLC, which is a local environmental consulting firm.
Hall of Fame Established
Numerous individuals have made significant contributions to further the mission of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. The Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Alumni Association now honors these persons by recognizing them as members of a newly created School of Renewable Natural Resources Hall of Fame. These individuals include former faculty, directors, alumni and other significant supporters of the School.

Nominations can be offered by any current or former director or faculty member of the School and by any member of the FWF Alumni Association. Nominations should consist of the names of the nominator and nominee, and a 300-to-500-word document describing the outstanding contributions of the nominee. Meritorious contributions may include outstanding service to her/his natural resources profession, interest in and service to the School or LSU’s FWF Alumni Association, and outstanding civic work.

Nominations must be submitted for review by the Executive Council of the LSU FWF Alumni Association and received at least 60 days prior to Homecoming so that they will be acted upon before the annual Alumni Association meeting. If the Executive Council approves the nomination, it will be sent to the School’s director for final approval. Election to the Hall of Fame requires approval by the School’s director and the executive council.

Inductees to the Hall of Fame shall be officially recognized at the annual meeting of the FWF Alumni Association.

The 2007 inductees will be Dr. Paul Y. Burns, Dr. Thomas Hansbrough posthumously and Dr. Norwin E. Linnartz posthumously. Detailed descriptions of the contributions of the three inductees are included at www.rnr.lsu.edu.

Endowment and Scholarship News
In addition to being elected to the Hall of Fame, Drs. Burns, Linnartz and Hansbrough all have a scholarship named after them.

The Burns scholarship is held at the LSU Foundation. The scholarship is open to all majors in the School. The scholarship was endowed earlier this year; however, additional funds are needed so we can begin awarding the scholarship. Checks for the Burns scholarship should be made payable to the LSU Foundation with Paul Y. Burns Scholarship indicated on the memo line.

The Hansbrough scholarship was started this year after his passing. The scholarship is open to forestry majors in the School and is held at the Louisiana Forestry Foundation. Additional contributions are needed to endow this scholarship and begin making awards. Checks for the Hansbrough scholarship should be made payable to Louisiana Forestry Foundation with Tom Hansbrough indicated on the memo line.

The Norwin Linnartz scholarship was endowed at the Louisiana Forestry Foundation and has been awarded annually for the past few years. No additional contributions are needed. This scholarship is open to all forestry majors in the School.

Checks for the Burns and Hansbrough Scholarships can be sent to Todd Shupe at the School. He can be reached at (225) 578-6432 or tshupe@agcenter.lsu.edu with any questions.

Thank you for your support of these important scholarships!

New Scholarship for Research in Swamp Forest Silviculture
In February 2007, the Schreier-Edisen Foundation donated $100,000 to the LSU Foundation to establish the Barbara S. Edisen Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be available to graduate students who work on research projects in silviculture of bottomland hardwood or cypress-tupelo forests.

The College of Agriculture dean’s office honored the Schreier-Edisen Foundation at their annual Scholarship Awards Reception on September 20, 2007. The School of RNR will commemorate this generous donation with a plaque to be displayed in the lobby of the Renewable Natural Resources Building.

Gifts like this are critical for building long-term success in the School’s graduate program. Our sincere thanks go to the Schreiner-Edisen Foundation.

Got News?
E-mail Todd Shupe
tshupe@lsu.edu
or
Paul Burns
pyburns@lycos.com
Summer 2007
By Dr. Paul Y. Burns

The following Alumni news items are diligently prepared all year long by Dr. Paul Burns. As many of you know, Paul is an excellent record keeper and purveyor of documents. He works very hard throughout the year to maintain detailed alumni records for our enjoyment. If you have opportunity, please extend your gratitude for his hard work, and certainly, if you have any additional news, please share that as well. He can be reached at 225-578-4131 or by e-mail at pyburns@lycos.com.

Hoyt Michael “Mike” Barnes, ’65 B.S.F., ’68 M.S., forest product technology, recently assumed the position of president of the Forest Products Society.

James P. Barnett, ’57 B.S.F., ’63 M.F., has recently been honored by the U.S. Forest Service with a lifetime achievement award. Jim is a retired chief silviculturist with the USDA Forest Service’s Southern Research Station, Pineville, La. He had a 40-year career as a Forest Service researcher.

Rachel Rollason Billingham, ’96 B.S.F., is community forestry coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. Profiled in the July 2007 issue of Forestry Source, the newsletter of the Society of American Foresters, she commented that the biggest challenges associated with her work are urban sprawl and poor land-use decisions.

Billy C. Bond, ’57 B.S.F., worked with his former classmates Benton H. Box, ’57 B.S.F., ’59 M.F., and Glenn L. Brinkman, ’57 B.S.F., to celebrate the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1957 which was held September 25th.

Paul Y. Burns, former Director, now Professor Emeritus, RNR, and Honorary Alumnus, has been elected to the LSU Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries Association’s new Hall of Fame. He was visited in his office by several School of RNR alumni during the past year, including Robert H. Chabreck, ’56 B.S.F., ’57 M.S. Game Management; Donna Lea Domburian, ’80 B.S.F.; Robert “Rob” N. Eddy III, ’77 B.S.F.; Richard W. Heaslip, ’66 B.S.F.; Mark G. Shirley, ’79 M.S. wildlife; and Robert “Bob” W. Strader, ’78 M.S. wildlife.

Charles W. Caillouet Jr., ’59 B.S.F., ’60 M.S.G.M., lives with his wife, Nancy, in Montgomery, Texas. He wrote Paul that he retired in 1998 from the National Marine Fisheries Service after a 34-year career. He remains active in sea-turtle conservation and management issues.

In Memoriam

Dr. Thomas Hansbrough, ’49 B.S.F., ’57 M.F., professor and director emeritus of the LSU School of Natural Resources, died on February 27, 2007, at age 83 due to a chronic illness. A native of Greenfield, Tennessee, and a retired colonel of the Marine Corps Reserves and a combat veteran and Marine Corps pilot in World War II and the Korean Conflict, he is survived by his wife, Catherine Moore Walker Hansbrough; a daughter and son, Faith Hansbrough, M.D., and Thomas Allen Hansbrough, M.D.; grandchildren Thomas A. Hansbrough, Jr., Leigh Meredith Fahr, Andrew Luke Hargroder and Virginia Grace Hargroder; and great-grandson Thomas A. Hansbrough III. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Virginia Sanders Hansbrough.

Dr. Hansbrough held three LSU degrees: B.S.F., 1949; M.F. 1957 and Ph.D. (sociology), 1961. He conducted research in 1949 at LSU’s North Louisiana branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

A Marine Corps reservist, he was called back into service in 1952. In 1955 he returned to his LSU research work at Homer and joined the forestry faculty in Baton Rouge in 1960, where he taught dendrology, forest ecology and artificial reforestation. He was major professor for 18 LSU graduate students.

In 1970 a new forestry department was established at the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Hansbrough left LSU to become its head. However, LSU got him back in December 1976 when he became the Director of LSU’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Management.

With a great deal of effort and diplomatic skill, Dr. Hansbrough succeeded in getting the state legislature in 1983 to fund a new Forestry-Wildlife-Fisheries building, which was finished in 1986.

Dr. Hansbrough retired in July 1988, becoming Director Emeritus and Professor Emeritus.

He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Navy League.
James E. Curtis Jr., B.S.F. ’48, and his wife have been honored by the establishment of a forestry scholarship, the Doris and Jim Curtis scholarship, at LSU. Jim was the owner of Triangle Timber Company in Hammond, La. After his death, Jim’s wife remained active in Louisiana forestry until she passed away in December 2006.

Malhon J. Doucet, ’74 B.S.F., came to the School of RNR in July 2007 for a short course on computer programming. Also attending this short course was forestry consultant Steve Templin, Boyce, La., who told Paul that his late father-in-law, M. Samuel “Sam” Jones, Jr. received his B.S.F. from LSU in 1938.

James F. Dykes, ’49 B.S.F., died July 4, 2006. For many years Jimmy lived in McComb, Mississippi, where he worked as a forester for the Illinois Central Railroad.

Hans G. Enghardt, ’66 M.F., was the subject of a human interest story written by Dr. James P. Barnett, ’57 B.S.F., ’63 M.F., in the First Quarter 2007 issue of Forests & People. In 1955 Hans, a veteran of the German army, was hired and sponsored by the Louisiana Forestry Commission as a researcher on southern pine plantations. Assigned to the U.S. Forest Service, he was stationed at Pineville. After 17 years he went back to Germany, earned a doctorate at the University of Freiburg and worked for the German government at Baden-Baden.

Paul D. Frey, ’74 B.S.F., has announced that he will retire as State Forester of Louisiana at the end of 2007.

Keith E. Hawkins, ’86 M.S. forestry, has moved from Georgia, where he worked for the Cooperative Extension Service, to a position as area forestry agent in DeRidder for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

Chung-Yun Hse, ’63 M.S. forestry, has received many awards for his research, particularly in the field of wood composites and adhesives. After earning his Ph.D. in forest products, he became a research forest products technologist at the USDA-Forest Service Alexandria Forestry Center in Pineville. Dr. Hse is adjunct professor at four universities.

Earl E. Keaton, ’59 B.S.F., visited LSU’s RNR building in August, along with his wife, daughter and two grandchildren. Originally from Bogalusa, he worked for many years in Louisiana forest industry, then retired and became a forestry consultant in West Monroe.

Shih-Chang “Tony” Hu, ’71 Ph.D. forestry, has retired from his restaurant business in Baton Rouge and has a home near Clinton. He and his wife Pai-Cha have become enthusiastic ballroom dancers.

Michael J. Lawton Jr., ’58 B.S.F., passed away November 23, 2006, in Pineville. Mike was a forester with Pineville Kraft Corp. and retired from Colfax Creosote Co. He became the owner and operator of Lawton Forest Products and was a timber consultant in the central area of Louisiana.

Cyril E. LeJeune, ’77 B.S.F., has retired from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry after 30 years. He was a unit forester in the Feliciana Parishes and became a district forester. He was forest protection chief and in 1993 became associate state forester.

Norwin E. Linnartz, ’59 M.F., has been elected posthumously to the LSU Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries Alumni Association’s new Hall of Fame.

Huey P. Lizana, ’57 B.S.F., died in Alexandria April 24, 2006. He served as a drill sergeant in the Army during the Korean Conflict. After being graduated from LSU he worked as a forester for Tremont Lumber Co., Crown Zellerbach and Cavenham. After he retired he worked as a forestry consultant in Tullos, La.

Paul R. Orr, ’71 B.S.F., has retired from the Louisiana Office of Forestry. He works part-time for LSU’s Hilltop Arboretum, operated by the LSU School of Landscape Architecture.

Cesar A. Portocarrero, ’61 B.S.F., a Peruvian native, wrote Paul a year ago that he remembers fondly his college years at LSU and treasures the welcome he received from forestry faculty members C.B. Briscoe, Paul Burns and Robert McDermid. Cesar married a Michigan girl and worked in Peru for two years and in Venezuela for five years. For seven years he was employed by the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., and later in Mexico. He retired nine years ago. Cesar continues to be active in several Bonsai organizations and in photography.

Manuel J. Rivette, ’43 B.S.F., died August 1, 2006, at his home in Baton Rouge. A native of New Orleans, he was a Lt. in the U.S. Army during WW II, serving in Europe under George Patton. He became a forestry consultant and a salesman.

Donald P. Smith Jr., ’86 B.S.F., has been named forest protection chief, Louisiana Office of Forestry, replacing Cyril LeJeune, ’77 B.S.F., who has retired.

Nianfu Song, ’06 Ph.D. forestry, was honored by having his dissertation selected as one of the outstanding dissertations for the 2006 academic year. His dissertation was chosen as the entry from the College of Agriculture to compete for the award.

R. Wilson Spencer, ’75 M.S. forestry products technology, passed away April 30, 2007, in Shreveport. A native of Alexandria, he was a retired entrepreneur living in Baton Rouge.

Burton D. Weaver, Jr., ’60 B.S.F., is chairman of the Louisiana Forestry Commission.

Leon O. Wright Jr., ’53 B.S.F., died in April 2006 in Thomasville, Georgia, where he had lived for many years. After receiving his B.S.F. he served in the military. He then worked for Masonite Corp. in Mississippi.
A Recovering Forest, Two Years After Katrina  (Continued from page 20)

along Bogalusa Creek was heavily damaged, and it was not salvaged after the storm as it is very wet. This area was left to recover on its own, and it will show the damage for some time as it recovers.

The forest also has had some outbreaks of bark beetles from the stress of the storm, but they were minor. In some of the young pine stands trees are still bent in the direction of the wind or are blown down. This is especially prevalent in the ones that were thinned prior to the storm but less severe in the ones that were not thinned.

There are also several clear cuts from the salvage logging that was performed after the storms. Although these areas still show signs of damage, they are recovering. If you look very carefully while walking through the clear cuts you can see the young pine seedlings that have been planted. Hopefully, they will soon become mature timber stands much like they were prior to Katrina.

The management of Lee Memorial Forest since the storm has hastened the recovery of the forest. Areas that once showed the devastation that followed Katrina are now only noticeable if something is mentioned. The leaning trees and saplings permanently twisted in the direction of Katrina’s winds will be reminders of the storm for years to come, but the reminder is somehow a good thing.

The faculty and staff at the School of Renewable Natural Resources are grateful to Joe Nehlig and the entire crew at the Lee Memorial Forest for the long hours and diligent work that made the recovery efforts possible. It was a huge endeavor that we will appreciate for many years to come.

[Ian Stone is an undergraduate student working towards his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry.]

Supporting the School of Renewable Natural Resources

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___ Yes, I want to support the School of Renewable Natural Resources. I would like my donation of $________ to be used for:

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___ Thomas Hansbrough Scholarship

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Make checks payable to LSU Foundation and indicate the School of Renewable Natural Resources Excellence Campaign on the memo line.

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Contact Director Allen Rutherford for more information concerning contributions to the School of Renewable Natural Resources at 225-578-4131.

The Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources offers exciting opportunities for students to pursue a wide range of career opportunities in the conservation, preservation and management of America’s natural resources. We offer two undergraduate programs as well as M.S. and Ph.D. programs. For more information, visit www.rnr.lsu.edu.