

THE KNOTHOLE

1992-93

Auburn Forestry



**THE
KNOTHOLE**

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EDITOR, AMY MURPHY

EDITOR'S PAGE

Amy Murphy

As the '92-'93 school year comes to a close, doors are opened to a new beginning. This year's graduates were faced with a multitude of changes from the beginning of their forestry education at summer camp, to the end of their college career.

The '91 summer camp that these graduates and I attended was the first recent summer camp not to include Dendrology. Instead, we were "guinea pigs" for a new curriculum which included: Forest Biology, Introduction to Forest Operations, and Introduction to Forest Management, along with the traditional Mensuration and Surveying. However, once back in Auburn, we enrolled in Dendrology in the fall. Most of these curriculum changes seemed to be to our advantage, and thus we did not mind being "guinea pigs". In fact, these "guinea pigs" are now the first students to graduate from Auburn University's School of Forestry with either a degree of Forest Resources or Forestry Operations. As in the past, the Forest Engineering degree is still awarded. The new degrees were developed in response to changes in the educational needs of foresters in the modern world.

As the public interest in the environment increases, demands on land managers may be created without scientific basis. As foresters, we have been educated in the science of forestry, and therefore can make sound management decisions regarding our forests. As P. J. O'Rourke said, "Some people will do anything to save the earth except take a science class". It is imperative that foresters provide the uninformed or misinformed public with the correct information about the values of our forests and the benefits they provide.

The forestry profession will not only be faced with challenges from Mother Nature and the present Washington administration, but also from the public. Improved communication skills and quality education will help meet the challenges of developing harmony between the forest industry and the public. As David Pease stated, "all the scientific, economic and environmental justification for rational forest management doesn't mean diddly if the public rejects the premise".

Finally, this edition of The Knothole could not be complete without commending Mrs. Lane Messer and Angela Williams. The 1993 Knothole would not have been possible without their generous contributions of time and effort.

TIME TO COMPROMISE (Journal of Forestry January 1993)

Mark J. Hains

As a student involved in resource policy, and through conversations with my peers, I am exposed almost daily to the controversy surrounding management of our national forests. I see the northern spotted owl problem as the most divisive and soul-searching issue we have ever faced as foresters. The solution must probably cover a longer time span than the plans currently being considered.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated and wants to preserve 6.9 million acres of critical habitat for the owl. The timber industry says it is too much. Environmentalists say it is too little.

What would happen if a substantial proportion of the 6.9 million acres were removed from critical habitat area (CHA) protection? The remaining old-growth forests not in protected preserves or wilderness areas would be harvested. There is a strong likelihood that the spotted owl would become extinct, along with other species dependent on old-growth ecosystems. The timber industry would be branded the devil incarnate. Children would grow up learning how logger greed doomed the owl to extinction.

What if the environmentalists win? The remaining old-growth would be protected for all eternity. Segments of the western timber industry dependent on old-growth timber would be devastated. More jobs would be lost and some towns would dry up. Environmentalists would be blamed for the destruction of the "American dream."

There are no winners in the current dilemma. One side becomes a martyr, the other a villain. Although many would consider owl extinction a terrible loss, I think protection of the old-growth forest ecosystem is a more preeminent concern. Is it possible to harvest some of the 6.9-million-acre CHA while planning to expand the old-growth ecosystem? No ecosystem is immune to natural disasters. Historically, most if not all the forests in the West have been struck with one catastrophe or another. Following each event, the old-growth forest ecosystem extended back into the affected areas. So doesn't logging an old-growth area simulate a natural event? Left to its own devices, won't the old-growth forest ecosystem eventually reclaim the logged-over tracts? While some logging practices may not bring back an old-growth ecosystem in a reasonable period of time, others (such as thinning and shelterwood cuts) may, especially as rising prices make them more economically feasible.

At what rate does an old-growth forest ecosystem reestablish on cutover areas? How much must be protected for the ecosystem to be reestablished? Herein lies a possible solution. In exchange for allowing the timber industry to harvest up to half the 6.9 million acres, the cutover areas would be put into extended rotations: 100-, 200-, 300-, up to 500-year rotations. To sweeten the deal for environmentalists, cutover and uncut forest areas outside the 6.9 million acres would be put into these extended rotations, laid out so that fragmented old-growth remnants are connected. Scientists would determine the rate at which the old-growth ecosystem is reestablished in cutover areas and make appropriate adjustments to the rotation lengths.

The acreage removed from current CHA protection could be cut over an extended period of time. The industry needs timber now and in the near future. The industry could cushion its fall by extending the period of time over which this timber is cut. The extended rotations allow the old-growth forest ecosystem to reclaim much of its former range. I believe the owl's long-term chances are better with this strategy than with the current management plans that protect fragments of old-growth forests.

What would be the effects of this compromise? Industry would harvest more timber under this plan than under the current 6.9-million-acre set-aside, but harvesting would be extended over a longer timeframe. The timber industry would still lose jobs, but not as many and not all at once. Timber-dependent communities would have more time to stabilize around other activities. The long-term rotations would provide a more valuable end product than the current 70- to 90-year rotations. The possibility that almost all old-growth on federal land could be set aside in permanent preserves is avoided. Environmentalists would get large stands of timber in long-term rotations. The old-growth forest ecosystems would have a chance to expand rather than exist as protected fragments. The possibility that a substantial proportion of the 6.9 million acres would be removed from federal protection is offset by designating harvest areas for long-term reentry into the old-growth ecosystem.

Under this plan there would be no martyrs or villains. The specifics have to be worked out—and even that would involve negotiations—but the opposing sides would be working toward an agreement both could live with. The current situation has two opponents in a blood feud, with Congress trying to be a mediator. Surely there is a better way. I believe this proposal provides for the long term health and productivity—i.e., sustainability—of both the old-growth ecosystem and local communities.

SUMMER CAMP

Ben Knight Jr.

Since 1959, Auburn University forestry students have dreaded the summer in which they are required to attend "Summer Camp". This program was established to introduce the undergraduate forestry students to multiple aspects of forestry; and I can assure you that it was successful.

In the past, the camp was held on main campus and at Little River State Park. However, for the last twelve years it has been held at the Solon Dixon Center near Andalusia, Alabama.

The curriculum at "Summer Camp 92" was more than demanding, but it proved to be manageable. Introduction to Forest Biology, the first course on our rigorous schedule, was taught by a conglomerate of professors: Dr. Kelly, Dr. Gjerstad, and Dr. Jones. This class provided the students with a brief introduction to forest pests, physiology, and dendrology; "Correct me if I'm wrong, Dr. Kelly".

The next class on our agenda, Field Mensuration, was taught by Dr. Glover and two graduate assistants, Doug Pitt and Bruce (Sleepy) Zutter. This class provided an excellent foundation to a large portion of a forester's career, "cruising timber". The highlight of this course was the orienteering exercise, in which the students were charged with the task of locating several points in the woods surrounding the Dixon Center. The problem with this exercise was that it was scheduled to begin the morning after the weekly buffet at the Rocking Robin. Needless to say, several of the students that overindulged were not exactly prepared for the exercise to begin.

Just when we had convinced ourselves that the worst part of the summer was over, we entered Forest Surveying. Dr. Brinker handled the surveying portion of the class. Unfortunately, Dr. Tufts was not able to attend, so Stephen Burdette taught the roads portion of the class. This course highlighted some main principles a forester needs to know about surveying such as: how to recover boundary lines and how to stake out a forest road. It was also during this course that, with the help of Brian Seals, Patrick Ratley, Kevin Rundlett, and Jason Rush, we got to practice our search and rescue skills.

Introduction to Forest Operations was a welcome relief to the unrelenting field exercises of Forest Biology, Mensuration, and Surveying. It was taught by Dr. Lanford, Dr. Taylor and Dr. Elder. The main portion of this class was spent traveling in vans throughout south Alabama observing different forest operations. Dr. Elder even spent a major portion of one trip demonstrating how not to drive a state van on a forest road.

To wind the summer up we attended Introduction to Forest Management, taught by Rhett Johnson. This class involved several guest speakers who discussed different approaches to land and timber management. The class also involved some very unique test questions, for example, the question in which we were asked to elaborate on Snow White and the seven dwarfs.

I couldn't say anything about "Summer Camp" without mentioning our GTA's, Al Bradley and Mark Hains. I, as well as the rest of the students, learned a great deal from these two individuals. From Al we learned, "When in doubt, ask the professor", and from Mark we learned, "When in doubt, ask Al".

At "Summer Camp" we all shared several experiences that we will remember for the rest of our lives. Some individuals picked up new names that will probably remain with them indefinitely, for example: Froggie, Francis, Ping Pong, Super Greg, and Gomer.

Now that my "Summer Camp" experience is over, I wouldn't trade it for anything. I learned more in those ten short weeks than I ever could have sitting in a classroom; and I had a great time doing it! So, "Summer Camp" isn't something to be dreaded, like Measurements I or Forest Roads, it is the one learning experience I feel anyone can enjoy.



FIREWOOD

Chuck Watrous

This year marks the best year ever for AU's Forestry Club in firewood revenue. Unfortunately, the firewood demand was so high this year that we depleted our firewood supply before we could fulfill all of our requested orders. This was not due to the lack of effort by the Forestry Club members who unselfishly gave up their weekends to help with firewood sales.

The AU Forestry Club would also like to give special recognition to the following for their donations to the club this year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Kimberly-Clark (Coosa Pines, Alabama)	1 truck load of tree-length firewood (10 - 12 cords)
U. S. Forest Service (Auburn, Alabama)	unloading the trees delivered by Kimberly-Clark
Mr. Bob Beadles	4 tires (and wheel bearings packed) for our Forestry Club trailer
Johnny Rankin	wood for the construction of sides to our Forestry Club trailer
Gene Messick	cost of tuning up the Forestry Club chainsaw
Mrs. Lane Messer	a 2-cord firewood rack for storing our firewood

Gross profit of firewood sales this year came to \$1080. As stated above, this was an all-time high for AU's Forestry Club in firewood sales. From our profit, we were able to purchase a used tandem-axle trailer (which definitely needs a good coat of paint) and various other tools to aid in the preparing and delivery of firewood.

With all of the necessary equipment already in hand, we challenge the 1993-94 seniors and Forestry Club members to match or better our success in firewood sales this year. The best advice we can give you is try not to run out of firewood and the more members who get involved with the firewood sales, the better chances towards a successful year.

I wish you good luck, but \$1080 is going to be difficult to beat.
GO TIGERS!

SGA HONORS DAY BANQUET

FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Holmes Hendrickson

Every year the student government association recognizes an outstanding faculty member from each school at the annual Auburn University Honors Day Banquet. The School of Forestry student body selected Dr. Richard W. Brinker as its honoree this year.

Dr. Brinker has been an assistant professor and timber harvesting specialist at Auburn for five years. His educational background includes a bachelors degree in Forestry from LSU, an MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Ph.D. in Forestry from LSU. Some of Dr. Brinker's specialties include: forest road construction, logging safety, timber harvesting, surveying, and logging business management.

Furthermore, Dr. Brinker has also had 12 years industrial experience in land management, wood procurement, and timber harvesting. It is the way he relates these experiences in the classroom that makes him such a valuable instructor. Through these experiences, he is able to give his students an insight into the real world and prepare them for their future careers in forestry. As a student of Dr. Brinker and as a representative of the School of Forestry, it was both an honor and a privilege to present him as our Faculty Member Of The Year.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Amy Murphy

Each year an Honors Day Banquet is conducted by the Auburn University Student Government Association to recognize an exceptional student from each school on campus. The School of Forestry selected Brigetta Wallace as its outstanding senior undergraduate student for 1993.

Brigetta was selected for this honor not only because she excels academically, but because she is a strong leader. She was elected to the nationally recognized forestry honor society, Xi Sigma Pi, and was elected by forestry club students as the vice-president of the Forestry Club. As the vice-president of the Forestry Club, she was active in many of its activities including: firewood sales, Forestry Conclave and its many Saturday morning practices, and general meetings.

Brigetta seems to stand out where ever she is both academically and personally. Her radiant smile and cheerful personality are welcomed by her professors and peers alike. Brigetta's endless energy and positive attitude, two of her greatest attributes, have been an inspiration to many students.

We are very proud of Brigetta's achievements within the School of Forestry and hope that the qualities that made her successful here will carry on in her chosen profession.

17th Annual Resource Consortium '93

TVA's Land Between The Lakes

Steven P. Meyers

The Christmas break was cut short this year for eight patrons of Auburn's School of Forestry. The winter academic quarter started a little early with a trip to TVA's Land Between the Lakes, Tennessee. We departed Auburn early one morning with an idea of what to expect, but returned with more than we could have imagined. I thought that this trip would be just another attempt by educators to throw students into a group situation, and have them work through some trivial resource management problem. These group situations usually emphasize the ability to work together, rather than the problem itself. I later found out that I was very wrong.

The faculty representatives were Dr. Earl Debrunner and Dr. Kathryn Flynn. This was Dr. Flynn's first trip to LBL's consortium. She did an excellent job in representing Auburn, and being involved with the students. The Auburn student contingency consisted of 1 graduate student: Robin (Red Bud) Clawson, 3 seniors: Alexander McCall, Carl Wiggins and myself, 1 junior: Duane Weis, and 1 promising young sophomore, Richard (Redwood) Hall.

We were divided into five groups, with each group consisting of one student from each of the participating schools. The other students were impressive, and represented different ideas, policies, and convictions about resource management. The schools were: Stephen F. Austin, The University of Tennessee, The University of Kentucky, and Alexander's favorite, Southern Illinois University.

We began working on our group specific problems, and in the days to come our approach to addressing these problems evolved. The school representation was great because of the variations in their emphasis on resource management, from the conservative "right" to the liberal "left". This combination introduced a learning experience that I never expected.

Situational Problems for Consortium '93

- * What kind of an effect will the cessation of timber harvesting on TVA's LBL have on both game and nongame species
- * How to devise a fire management plan that would achieve vegetation management with other objectives in the absence of timber harvests
- * How to make recreational "users" aware of the environmental impact statement (EIS)
- * How to document the socioeconomic impacts of the cessation of harvest on the people of the LBL region
- * How to develop a marking and harvest guide for a specified compartment that demonstrates a shift from even-aged management to uneven-aged management
- * How to identify major species groups of migratory birds and their habitat requirements, and to suggest methods to help perpetuate these habitats in the absence of timber harvest

For the first time I was exposed to a side of resource management that emphasized more than timber harvesting. As the week drew to a close, the groups seemed to come together in the "middle" and address the problems assigned. The solutions to the problems were presented to the LBL staff in a presentation that sometimes lasted up to three hours. As participants, we felt that the majority of problems that resource managers face originate from the misguided activists and blind masses who have resource degrees from the University of National Geographic or the College of the Discovery Channel.

It is easy to point the finger and place the blame for environmental gridlock, but we learned that true environmental protection and management can only be successfully achieved through social considerations, sound economic reasoning, factual scientific data, and open minds with a true commitment to environmental awareness. We hope that policies and future legislation will represent this idea of true environmental protection and management instead of more of the same.



CONCLAVE 1993

Brigetta Wallace

The 36th annual ASFC Conclave was hosted this year by the University of Tennessee in Big Ridge State Park, Tennessee. Tennessee should be commended for a well organized conclave despite the rain.

The 1993 Conclave team from Auburn consisted of eight students:

Scott Lynn	- Archery, Axe throw, Bowsaw, Crosscut-Mens, Knife Throw
Richy Tindell	- Log Chop, Photogrammetry
Craig Trummel	- Log Birling, Pole Climb, Wood Identification
Brigetta Wallace	- Chain Throw, Crosscut-Womens, Crosscut-Jack & Jill, Wildlife
Chuck Watrous	- Log Roll, Compass & Pacing, DBH Estimation
Carl Wiggins	- Chain Throw, Crosscut-Jack & Jill, Crosscut-Mens, Log Roll, Pole Felling, Timber Estimation
Cathy Wiggins	- Crosscut-Womens
Steve Younghance	- Dendrology, Wildlife

The students were very fortunate this year to be accompanied by our advisors Dr. John Bliss and Dr. Kathryn Flynn. They led the team on with cheers, coffee and danishes. We appreciated their support but could have done without Dr. Bliss' chant "More Beagles."

Since our team was so small, most of us participated in several events. We had to organize our contestants carefully so as not to miss an event. Despite this disadvantage, we managed to enter every event and still make a very good showing. Chuck Watrous placed third in DBH Estimation. After a run-off with Stephen F. Austin, Scott Lynn placed third in the axe throw. Pole Felling was the only event we placed last in this year. To our surprise, Carl Wiggins felled a pole 180" from the marked stake.

Some of the highlights of the weekend began with the rain on Friday afternoon. The slippery ground and thick mud made some of the events more challenging than competitors expected. This year events required balance and coordination on top of the skills normally necessary to complete each event. For example, competitors slid in the mud while trying to roll up the chain. Not a single contestant walked up the pole this year; each one had to "shimmy". The log roll was a sight! It took us sixteen minutes to roll (slide) the log which placed us eighth out of fourteen schools. We enjoyed watching students slide and fall in the mud. A participant of Stephen F. Austin "took the cake" when he dove face first in the mud through a fellow students legs.

Once again, Arkansas placed 1st, Stephen F. Austin placed 2nd, and N.C. State placed 3rd. Overall, the Auburn team placed 11th.

Next year the 37th Annual Conclave will be held at Stephen F. Austin, in Texas. Several enthusiastic team members will be returning, which hopefully will be the beginning of a new Auburn tradition. Best of luck next year!



BANQUET 1993

Carl Wiggins

The Auburn Forestry Club's Awards Banquet was held on May 18, 1993 at Surprise Creations in Opelika, Alabama. This event is held annually to recognize faculty and students of outstanding achievement and for recognition of scholarship donors and supporters of the school of forestry.

This year's banquet was organized by Annetta Burdette (treasurer of the forestry club) and Mrs. Lane Messer. The forestry club appreciates the hard work that they put forth in order to make the banquet a huge success.

The participation this year was incredible. At last count, 104 people were present at the banquet. To my knowledge, this is the first time in the history of the banquet that participation has exceeded the 100 mark! I hope this "trend" will continue for all future banquets. (HINT: The grilled steaks were a real crowd pleaser.)

The following awards and recipients were honored:

The Charles Dixon Memorial Scholarships

Hubert Boatwright Brian Kaplan Randall Stapleton

The Steve Jackson Memorial Scholarships

John C. Gregson Richard Jones
William Hazel Jr. D. Brigetta Wallace

Russell Lands Scholarship

Jerry Hanks

E.A. Hauss Forestry Scholarships

Timothy Albritton Arthur Powers Tim Gothard William Tyndall Jr.
Kevin M. Sellers Holmes Hendrickson James Thomas III Steve D. Lloyd
J. Mark Ivey Craig Trummel Brian Kennedy

Christen/Posey Scholarship

James B. Callison

James W. Richardson Scholarship

Chuck Watrous

Garden Club of Alabama Forestry Conservation Scholarship

Annetta S. Burdette

Watters Family Scholarship

J. David Martin

Frank W. Boykin Scholarship

Angela Williams

Noll A. Van Cleave Scholarship

Jennifer Prestwood

James M. Walls Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Mathew Nespeca

L. M. and Mary Ware Forestry Scholarship

Richard Hall

James River Timber Corporation Forest Measurements Award

Steve D. Lloyd

MacMillan Bloedel, Inc. Forest Economics Award

J. Brent Williams

Southeastern Society of American Foresters Outstanding Senior Award

(Leadership) Carl Wiggins

Auburn Forestry Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award

(Academics) Timothy L. Gothard

U.S.D.A. Forest Service Science Award

Timothy L. Gothard

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Amy Murphy

An annual tradition of the Forestry Club is to choose a forestry professor as the "Teacher of the Year". This award is presented to the teacher that has put forth the most effort in educating the students. Not only is this award based on teaching ability, but also on the individual's personal qualities that go well beyond being just a professor. The 1993 "Teacher of the Year" is Dr. Bob Jones. Although Dr. Jones is still a rookie in many ways, he is an expert at teaching. This is quite evident from the number of years he has taught at Auburn compared to the number of years he has won the "Teacher of the Year" award. Right now Dr. Jones is 2 for 2.

Dr. Jones teaches the Dendrology section of the Forest Biology class, the undergraduate Dendrology course, and a graduate course in Community Ecology. Along with his teaching responsibilities, he is involved in several research projects.

One of Dr. Jones many attributes is his outgoing and energetic personality. This can be seen by his enthusiasm on his yearly Dendrology trip to the Smoky Mountains. Although this trip happens to fall on opening weekend of bow hunting season, even the avid hunters choose this trip over hunting.

It is the extracurricular activities and the time he spends with his students that make his qualities so admired. Caring professors like Dr. Jones are an endangered species.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Amy Murphy

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GOLDEN SHAFT AWARD

Ben Knight Jr.

An annual tradition of the Forestry Club is to grant a worthy professor with the famous Golden Shaft Award. The recipient of the 1993 Golden Shaft Award is Dr. Tom Elder.

This award says nothing about the teacher as an individual, only that the students did not agree with the professor on certain class matters. The students feel that changes made from last year's syllabus were not made in the students' best interests. In fact, these changes adversely affected the class' grade point average. In spite of all this, there are no hard feelings. However, we hope Dr. Elder will be more compassionate with the students next year.

XI SIGMA PI

Mark Hains

Xi Sigma Pi is a nationally recognized forestry honor society founded in 1908 at the University of Washington. The Sigma chapter of Xi Sigma Pi was established at Auburn University in 1952. The society has recently become a full fledged member of "The Association of College Honor Societies."

Xi Sigma Pi objectives are to secure and maintain a high standard of scholarship in forestry education, to work for the improvement of the forestry profession, and to promote a fraternal spirit among those engaged in forestry activities. The past members of Auburn's Sigma chapter along with their recently inducted initiates are striving to meet these goals.

The new members starting from left to right are:

Front Row: Ashley Griffin, Amy Murphy, Randy Stapleton, Hank Burch, and Mike Markevich

Back Row: Randy Elmore, Mark Hains, Brent Williams, Jason Thompson, Craig Gregson, and Chuck Watrous



FORESTRY EXTENSION

Amy Murphy

Extension is a faculty activity that few students know much about. Since the information is extended outside the School of Forestry, it is not readily apparent to students. We tend to think of faculty mainly as classroom teachers, or as researcher-teachers. However, in "Land Grant" universities such as Auburn, the founding federal legislation requires that the institution, besides carrying out teaching and research activities, must provide for the extension (or outreach) of research-based knowledge and information to public audiences who can apply it immediately. That is where our Extension faculty come in.

Approximately one fourth of the School of Forestry faculty have appointments with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Often these are "split" appointments involving part-time on Extension, and the remainder on research and/or teaching. This is a logical arrangement because teaching, research, and extension activities support one another.

All faculty at Auburn have an obligation to public service, which involves various forms of outreach to public audiences. The following list includes only those on our faculty who have formal and ongoing Cooperative Extension responsibilities and appointments. They are referred to as Extension Specialists because each has a subject matter specialization. They carry out the bulk of the School's outreach activity, often working in concert with Extension Agents based in county offices across the state.

JOHN BLISS

Extension Forestry Specialist: 75% Extension/25% Research, at Auburn since 1993.

Areas of expertise: private non-industrial forest management; social aspects of natural resources management (attitudes, issues, conflicts and trends); economics of NIPF management (marketing, taxation).

Recent activities: Alabama forest owner survey; public opinion surveys of attitudes toward forestry; oral histories of Alabama pulpwood producers; forestry education for youth.

DICK BRITTKER

Extension Timber Harvesting Specialist: 75% Extension/10% Research/15% Teaching, at Auburn since 2008.

Areas of expertise: logger safety training; timber harvesting systems; road construction; geographic information systems; wood procurement.

Recent activities: commercial drivers' license training for log truck drivers; loss control management for loggers; silvicultural training for loggers; BMP demonstrations for logging and road construction.

HONORIO CARINO

Extension Forest Products Specialist: 25% Extension/65% Research/10% Teaching, at Auburn since 1981.

Areas of expertise: forest products technology and operations management, with emphasis on lumber production.

Recent activities: Research-development of decision models for improving economic efficiency of wood products mills. Extension-directed technical assistance to wood products companies in Alabama; workshop on wood drying.

KATHRYN BLYNN

Extension Forestry Specialist: 75% Extension/25% Research, at Auburn since 1992.

Areas of expertise: wetlands ecology and water quality; wetlands management.
Recent activities: developing Extension and research program in environmental quality;

Extension-programs on environmental responsibilities of NIPF landowners; air and water quality in Alabama. Research-effects of harvesting and road-building techniques on floodplain systems.

HORRY LANFORD

Extension Timber Harvesting Specialist: 35% Extension/50% Research/25% Teaching, at Auburn since 1978.

Areas of expertise: forestry statistics; operations research, with concentration on forest engineering and timber harvesting.
Recent activities: development and demonstration of harvesting systems compatible with NIPF landowners' needs; improvement and promotion of operating techniques for timber forwarding systems; monitoring and improvement of forest thinning approaches; BMP workshops.

KEN MCNEARR

Extension Forestry Specialist: 75% Extension/25% Research, at Auburn since 2009.

Areas of expertise: forest regeneration, including nursery management and seedling quality; planting; silvicultural herbicides; prescribed burning.

Recent activities: short courses and seminars on silvicultural herbicides, prescribed burning, non-industrial forest regeneration; presentations on movement of nitrate and pesticides in forest dufferies based on ongoing research projects.

KEN MURPHY

Extension Forest Products Specialist: 100% Extension, at Auburn since 2009.

Areas of expertise: forest-based economic development; wood products manufacturing and marketing; new business planning and analysis.

Recent activities: industrial recruitment and trade promotion activities; feasibility analyses for manufacturing facility investments; assessment of worker training needs for secondary wood manufacturing industry development.

LAREN WADE

Extension Forestry Coordinator: 100% Extension, at Auburn since 2005.

Areas of expertise: Extension administration, planning and evaluation; forest management demonstrations; forest economics and taxation; general Extension forestry programming.

Recent activities: woodland management correspondence course; Mosley Environmental Awards Program; forest management demonstrations; county forestry planning committees; projects on behalf of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee.

The Decadent Life or Life As The Professional Student

Neil Pederson

Who are those pale, never-have-seen-the-light-of-day, zombified people? They roam the halls, looking sucked out of all life, at school before you get to class and still there long after you leave for the day. People that are buried deep in introspective, scientific thought too busy to stop and hang out. Well, I'd like to introduce you to the dark and foreboding world of those people, the life of a graduate student.

After having successfully navigated through loads of memorizing tree species, mathematical formulas, and forest processes as an undergraduate, the graduate student faces new and uplifting challenges. The first of these may be fitting a schedule full of research and academics around the numerous campus functions serving free meals and/or snacks. A list of these activities include: Weaver Lecture Series, meeting with prospective graduate students (food courtesy of advisor or school), Global Potluck Dinners, any potluck dinner, national conferences, or Co-operative Extension programs held at the Hotel and Conference Center. Fitted around this social (and feeding) schedule, is the academic life.

Gone in graduate classes are the endless hours of burning into the brain facts deemed perfunctionary by previous generations of students. There are many new mental obstacles to overcome. A typical quarter can include reading three books, writing 2,000 word essays three times a quarter, and critically analyzing and having prepared for discussion, fifty

scientific articles from refereed journals. Then comes the glorious role of the graduate student, the researcher.

Balancing the social and academic life, the graduate student must also fit in library and field research. Here the graduate student pours over years of valuable research to create a new hypothesis or question to test. After the fourth or fifth draft, the graduate/researcher now has a never-changing research proposal that will guide the uncomplicated and seldom problematic field work. Then it is time for the easy wheeling, thesis or dissertation writing segment of the graduate student's career. What is the summation of this person's hard work? To publish and inform the world of earth-shattering discoveries such as: trees planted close together grow less; loblolly pine is succeeded by hardwoods; to earn a higher profit, one should invest less; land burned and treated with herbicide regenerate with less herbaceous cover than if left untreated.

Of course, this has been a light look at the role of a grad student. Today's grad student has many important functions. A graduate student is a person that assists a professor with their sometimes heavy teaching load, carrying out on-going research, providing Auburn University money by bringing in research grants, and enhancing Auburn's name by publishing in journals read all over the world. Though a less understood role, a graduate student at Auburn University is vital for its growth and prosperity.



Presenting the FORESTRY GRADUATES

1992 - 1993

AUBURN UNIVERSITY



SUMMER 1992

Kenneth Dunn
Forest Management
Urburn, GA

Joseph C. James
Forest Management
Warner Robins, GA

Wade Thomas Richardson
Forest Management
Alexander City, AL

Mark Ivey
Forest Engineering
Selma, AL

A. W. Powers
Forest Management
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Bradford, PA

William A. Henry
M.S. Forest
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Paul S. Marshall
M.S. Forestry
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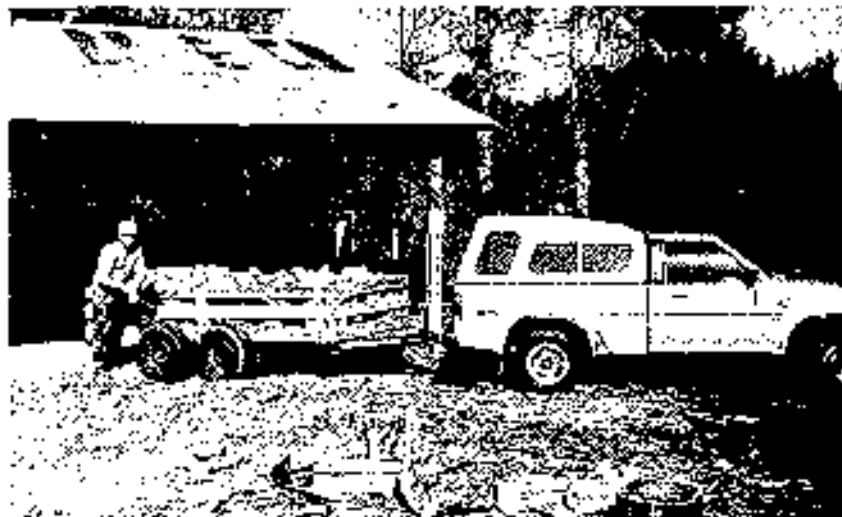
Where's the apple?



Playing in the mud again?

Help! I'm falling
and I can't get up!





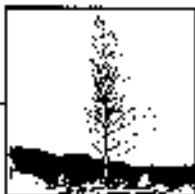
I can't believe I
volunteered for this!

He loves me.
He loves me not!



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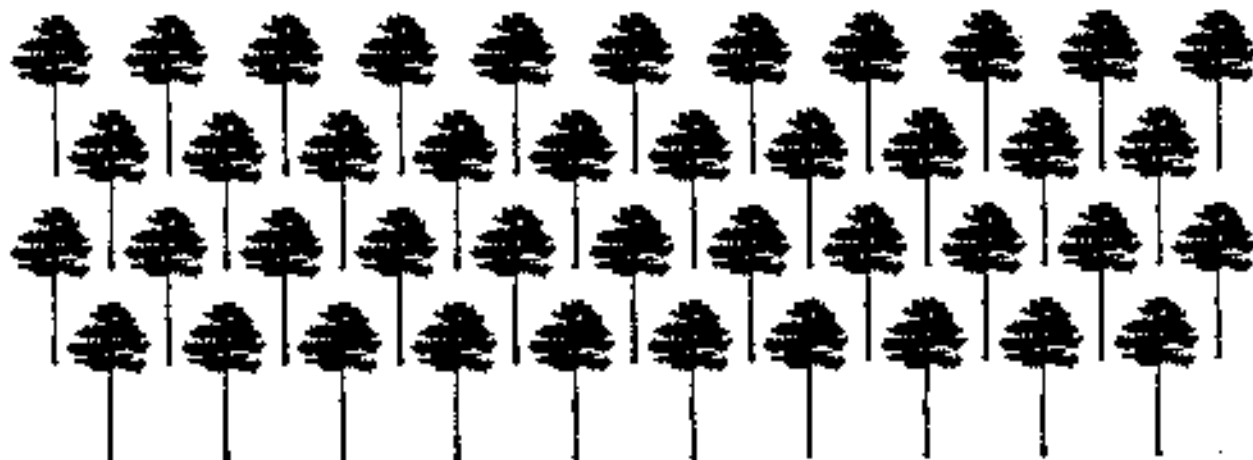
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
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