

2004

School of Renewable Natural Resources Newsletter, Winter 2004

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/research_matters

Recommended Citation

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, "School of Renewable Natural Resources Newsletter, Winter 2004" (2004). *Research Matters & RNR Newsletters*. 8.
http://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/research_matters/8

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Renewable Natural Resources at LSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Matters & RNR Newsletters by an authorized administrator of LSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact gcoste1@lsu.edu.

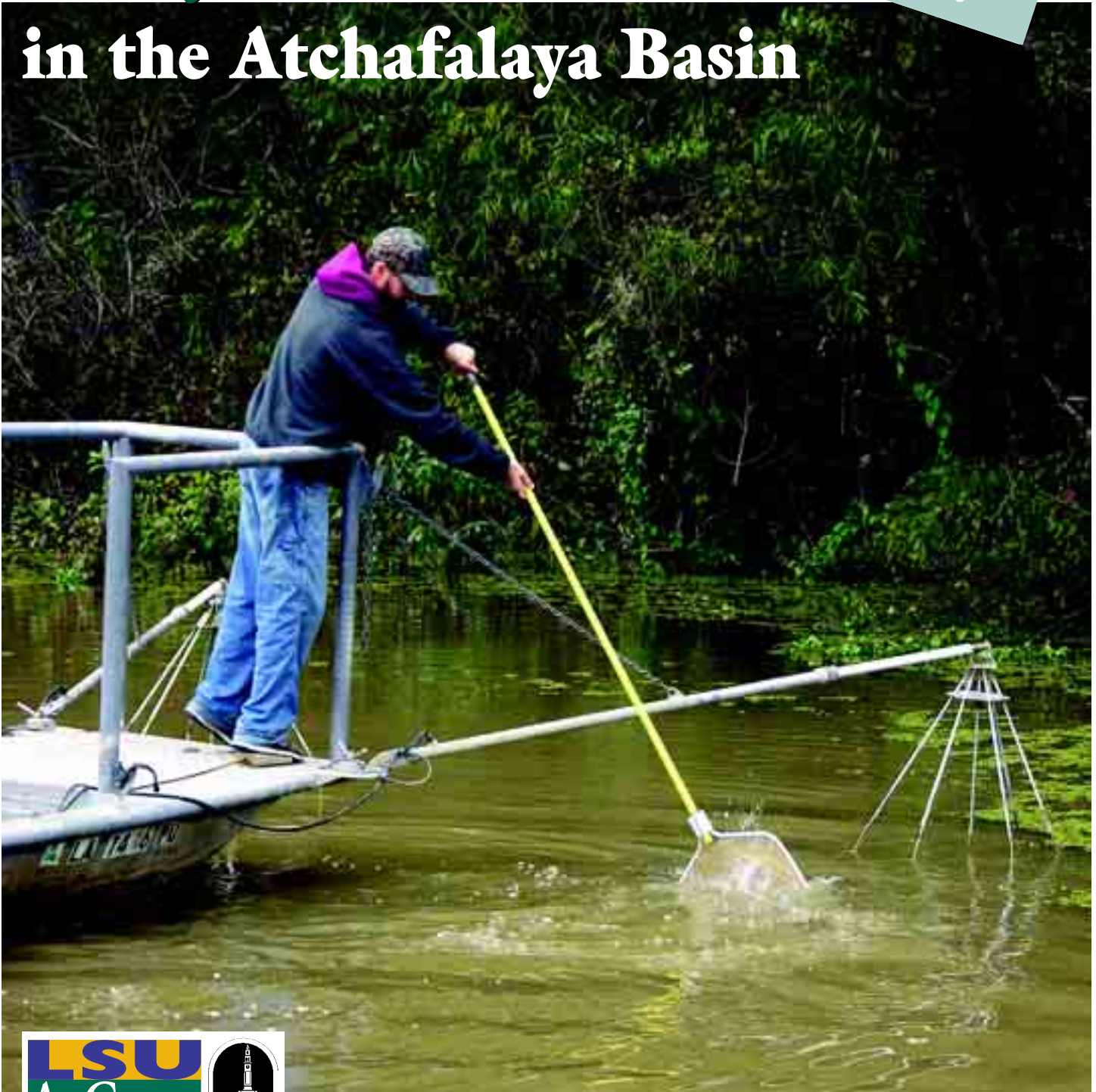


School of
Renewable Natural Resources
Newsletter

Winter 2004



Ecosystem Restoration **in the Atchafalaya Basin**



Research Spotlight

COVER PHOTO - Aaron Podey prepares to measure water quality profiles with a Hydrolab DataSonde. Water quality parameters include dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, specific conductance and depth.

Ecosystem Restoration in the Atchafalaya Basin

By Dr. William E. Kelso
and Dr. D. Allen Rutherford

The Atchafalaya River Basin is the largest bottomland hardwood forest in the United States, encompassing 1,930 square miles of Atchafalaya River floodplain in south-central Louisiana. The basin supports a tremendous diversity of terrestrial and aquatic plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and fishes, and it has played a



Figure 1. Recording conditions with a field water quality monitor.

central role in the cultural heritage of south Louisiana.

Aquatic production in the Atchafalaya River and its associated lakes, bayous and canals has historically provided abundant commercial harvests of crawfish and finfishes, as well as one of the largest and most popular recreational fisheries in the state; however, because of sediment deposition and impaired water movement during the annual flood pulse, widespread reductions in water quality during spring and summer and the establishment of several invasive aquatic plants, the ability of the basin to provide these resources has declined over the last century.

To address some of the problems in the basin, a multi-agency project of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the School of Renewable Natural Resources is under way to reduce the spatial and temporal extent of water quality problems associated with the annual Atchafalaya River flood pulse.

As part of this effort, we are conducting water quality and fisheries monitoring activities at several locations in the lower basin to document baseline conditions and provide data for assessment of the success of current and planned water management programs. Based on water quality sampling since late 2000 (Figure 1), we have identified several locations in the

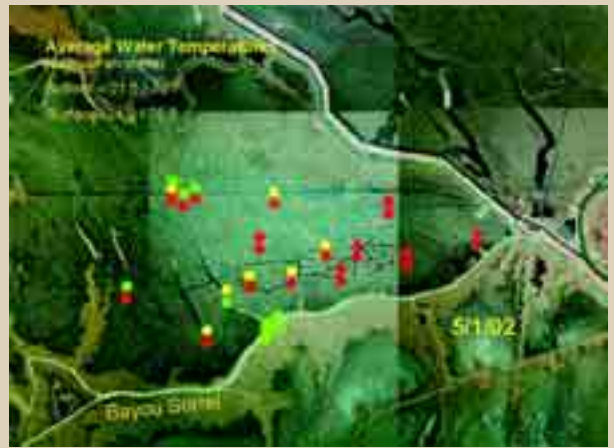


Figure 2. Dissolved oxygen concentrations at the surface and bottom (upper and lower dots) at 20 sites near Bayou Sorrel in the southeastern portion of the Basin in May 2002. Dissolved oxygen levels are <math>< 2 \text{ mg/l}</math> (red), $2-3 \text{ mg/l}$ (yellow) and above 3 mg/l (green).

basin that typically exhibit hypoxia (dissolved oxygen conditions below 2 mg/l) throughout the water column for extended periods in late spring and summer (Figure 2). These areas would likely benefit most from water management activities, which typically focus on the re-connection of riparian floodplain areas to adjacent canals and bayous by removing or shaving levees or spoil banks. It is anticipated that increased movement of water onto and off of the floodplain during the flood pulse will improve circulation and reduce the magnitude and impacts of low dissolved oxygen conditions.

Water column hypoxia is reflected in the species composition and abundance of resident animal communities, and, for fishes, low-DO habitats exhibit a low diversity of environmentally tolerant species such as spotted gar and warmouth compared to high-DO habitats. By improving water movement, it is hoped that the period of hypoxia (from the first to last date on which low-DO water was recorded at the surface at any site – about 230 days in 2003!) and the extent of hypoxic conditions can be reduced, increasing production of phytoplankton, zooplankton, aquatic insects, invertebrates and fishes and ultimately restoring at least some of the productivity that has been lost in this unique bottomland ecosystem.

Director's Comments



Bob Blackmon

Good things continue to happen in the School of Renewable Natural Resources. Since 2000 we have been able to hire 10 faculty members, and that is rather amazing, given the state of higher education budgets nationally and here at LSU. We could not have hired so many new people were it not for the continuing support of the central administrations of both the LSU AgCenter and the main campus. Our 10 new faculty members filled vacancies that occurred during the past few years, including some that were vacant before my arrival. They represent a third of the faculty, and they are bringing a new level of enthusiasm and energy to our School. Nothing is more important in reinvigorating a school and changing its culture than filling vacant positions. Indeed, progressive-thinking new and “old” faculty are contributing to the important new course we are charting.

Tight budgets constantly remind us of the need to seek funds from granting agencies and from the private sector. RNR faculty are very successful in the grant arena, annually garnering some \$1 million to \$1.5 million. These funds support ongoing research and, to some extent, extension programs. Increasingly, these funds come from nationally competitive sources, including the National Science Foundation—a clear indication that our faculty are recognized nationally and internationally.

Progress continues as well with development of endowments for professorships and scholarships. We now have five endowed professorships:

- The Weaver Brothers Professorship in Forestry, held by Dr. Jim Chambers
- The F.O. Bateman Professorship in Natural Resources, held by Dr. Bill Kelso
- The Bryant Bateman Professorship in Natural Resources, held by Dr. Allen Rutherford
- The Roy O. Martin, Sr. Professorship in Composite and Engineered Wood Products, held by Dr. Qinglin Wu
- The George William Barineau, Jr. Professorship in Wildlife Ecology, held by Dr. Frank Rohwer

Recently created scholarships and other endowment funds include:

- The Hoffpauer Award for Graduate Students
- The Ellis C. Magee Forestry Scholarship
- The Norwin Linnartz Memorial Scholarship (held by the Louisiana Forestry Foundation)
- The Elvin Choong Memorial Lecture Series
- The Ben and Pauline Stanley Excellence Fund
- The Graphic Packaging Forest Sustainability Fund

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the alumni and others who support the School in so many ways, including financially. Your support is clearly making a difference!

Dr. Vernon Wright retired from the School's wildlife faculty August 15, and we wish him well in his retirement. Filling this vacancy is critical to our wildlife program, and in the long term I am confident the position will be filled; however, in the short term, hiring may not be possible because of the current difficult state budget.

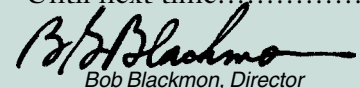
Undergraduate enrollment in forestry continues to be a concern.

As I have said, this is a national and international issue facing virtually all forestry programs. We are working hard to increase our enrollment, but the jury is still out on the final outcome. Overall, the School's total enrollment remains strong.

Many of you have heard of the Governor's Science Working Group on Coastal Forests. This is a “blue ribbon” panel of scientists, chaired by Dr. Jim Chambers of RNR, charged by the governor of Louisiana with the task of developing interim recommendations on regeneration and sustainability of coastal forests. This is an important and potentially controversial activity, but it illustrates the growing recognition of the School and its faculty. My hope is that, in the years to come, the School will be called on more and more to become involved in developing the science that should form the basis for policy decisions concerning natural resources.

Finally, I want to share with you the good news that the Louisiana Board of Regents recently approved an undergraduate program in Natural Resource Ecology and Management. This program will provide the umbrella for undergraduate studies in conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources, natural resources (honors program), wildlife ecology, wetland science and wildlife law enforcement. We believe this move will allow us to better serve the integrated and interdisciplinary needs of the renewable natural resources professions, our students and contemporary society.

Until next time.....



Bob Blackmon, Director

OUR THANKS

This newsletter was underwritten by the Ben and Pauline Stanley Excellence Fund.

Faculty News

Dr. Richard Vlosky, director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, and professor, Forest Products Marketing, School of Renewable Natural Resources, was recently awarded Louisiana State University's 2004 Advisor of the Year for his work with the International Student Association and the

International Cultural Center. He is also an adjunct professor in the LSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

Dr. Quang V. Cao returned to Vietnam in June for a brief visit after a 31-year absence. During this trip, he gave a presentation at the Agriculture and Forestry University in Ho Chi Minh City. The topics included information about the School of Renewable Natural

Resources, growth and yield modeling principles and forest biometrics research at LSU. The talk was well received by the audience, which included forestry officials, faculty and graduating seniors. There were lively discussions afterward on the need for collecting long-term data from Vietnamese forests and the appropriate methods for modeling these data.

Two New Faculty Join The School

Dr. Richard Keim has recently joined the faculty in the area of forested wetland ecology and management. He comes most recently from Oregon State University, where he was involved with research on forestry and hydrology.

His research included work to understand how management of streamside forests and stream channels can affect aquatic habitat for Pacific salmon and how forests interact with large rainstorms to affect the

occurrence of landslides in steep mountain terrain. Before going to the Pacific Northwest, he worked in Mississippi to develop management strategies for streamside forests to maintain water quality during forest harvesting in erodible soils.

Since arriving at LSU, Dr. Keim has begun investigating how hydrology affects productivity of coastal wetland forests by exploring tracers of past hydrological conditions preserved in tree rings. In addition, he is involved with the Louisiana Governor's Science Working Group on Coastal Wetland Forest Conservation and Use to advise the governor on utilization, conservation and protection of coastal wetland forests. He is looking forward to solving problems related to Louisiana's important forested wetlands, including the science to support management strategies to restore productivity and hydrological and ecological functions of these national treasures.

Dr. Craig Miller joined the faculty of RNR as an assistant professor in the spring of 2004. Dr. Miller's research focus is in human dimensions of natural resources and natural resource policy. He has extensive research experience in natural resource conflict analysis and resolution, user preferences for consumptive uses of wildlife and fisheries and social impact



Dr. Richard Keim

assessment models in natural resources policy. He has conducted extensive research on attitudes and preferences of waterfowl and deer hunters, perceptions of crop damage and homeowners' attitudes toward nuisance wildlife. Dr. Miller has worked on several projects for the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among these the feasibility study to reintroduce wolves to the Olympic peninsula in Washington, assessing visitor use of the transportation system in Denali National Park in Alaska and wildlife viewing opportunities for national wildlife refuges throughout North America.

Prior to joining the RNR faculty, Dr. Miller served five years as leader of the human dimensions research program for the Illinois Natural History Survey and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Before his work at the INHS, he was a visiting assistant professor and research associate for the School of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences at the University of Idaho. He received his B.S. in biology and M.Ed. in environmental education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D.

from The Pennsylvania State University. His work experience includes serving as a wildlife education specialist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and as a high school biology teacher.

Dr. Miller will offer new undergraduate and graduate courses in human dimensions and natural resources policy in RNR and continue his research in the human dimensions of wildlife and fisheries and in natural resources policy. He looks forward to working with the students and faculty in RNR and being involved with the challenges of natural resource management in Louisiana.



Dr. Craig Miller

Faculty News

In August and September, **Drs. Hallie Dozier and Allen Owings** hosted two successful arborist continuing education workshops. One featured Dr. Bonnie Appleton from Virginia Tech, who presented information on selection of quality nursery stock, installation and misconceptions about commercially available mycorrhiza products as soil amendments.

Dr. Hallie Dozier gave a presentation on invasive plant species at the Louisiana Master Gardeners' annual conference in Baton Rouge recently.

She also used a grant from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to host a workshop, "Invasive Species: Identification, Ecology, Monitoring and Management," in Alexandria. More than 120 participants from federal, state, parish and city agencies, as well as volunteer groups like the Louisiana Master Gardeners, attended.

Dr. Sun Joseph Chang was invited to present a TOPSAW workshop at Purdue University in August. TOPSAW is the sawing optimization software that optimizes the sawing sequence of hardwood logs to maximize the value of lumber produced.

In early October Dr. Chang presented two seminars in Taiwan. Subjects were endangered species protection and private property rights as well as community forestry and private property rights.

Dr. Phil Stouffer presented a paper, "Understory bird abundance in Amazonian forest fragments: 20 years of bird response to a dynamic landscape," at the American Ornithologists' Union in Quebec in April. He also co-authored, with W.F. Laurance, "Road crossing by Amazonian understory birds," which appeared in the August issue of *Conservation Biology*.

Forestry Professor Rides for Trees

Assistant Professor **Dr. Hallie Dozier** joined 49 other cyclists for a bike ride across Pennsylvania to bring attention to the need for urban and community trees and to raise funds for the Tree Research & Education

Endowment Fund (TREE Fund). She completed the 425-mile, eight-day Tour des Trees and raised \$3,950 in pledges for the TREE Fund. Each



year the Tour des Trees finishes at the annual conference of the International Society of Arboriculture, and this year after the Tour arrived in Pittsburgh, Dr. Dozier presented "Louisiana Arborists: Safety and Professionalism" at the ISA conference. To find out more about the TREE Fund, visit www.treefund.org or contact Dr. Dozier at 225-578-7219.

Dr. Jun Xu presented a paper, "Terrestrial ecosystem carbon in Louisiana's watersheds," in April at the 20th Annual Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop. In February 2004, at the 25th Anniversary

Meeting of the Louisiana Chapter, American Society of Fisheries, he presented "Surface hydrologic changes of the Atchafalaya River Basin."

Blackmons Help the Oaks

More than 1,000 live oak trees grace the LSU campus. Some of the oaks are in severe states of decline and in need of immediate attention.

LSU is doing its best to protect these spectacular trees with endowment funds such as the one created by Bob and Mary Beth Blackmon. Their endowment contribution provides for the tree's lifetime care and replacement if necessary. This oak is of particular interest to the Bob and Mary Beth since it is on the grounds of the School of Renewable Natural Resources. The "Blackmon Oak" is located just south of the RNR Building and is adjacent to Highland Road.

For more information about the Endow an Oak Campaign, please contact dhale@lsufoundation.org or phone 225/578-3811.



Mary Beth and Bob Blackmon

Two RNR Faculty Named as Distinguished Professors

Dr. Qinglin Wu, professor, was named as the Roy O. Martin Sr. Professor in Composite and Engineered Wood Products. He earned a Ph.D. degree in Forest Products from Oregon State University, an M.Eng. Sci. degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Tasmania, Tasmania, Australia, and a B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Henan Agricultural University, China. His research interests include preservative-treated structural panels, chemical coupling in wood polymer composites, wood surface chemistry, heat and mass transfer, wood and wood composite mechanics, dimensional stability and durability of wood composites and use of agricultural fibers. Dr. Wu teaches graduate level courses on wood composite mechanics and wood composite manufacturing at LSU. He has secured more than \$1.5 million in grants, contracts and cooperative agreements, and he has written more than 50 refereed publications.

Dr. Wu's professorship was funded by a gift from the Martin Foundation of the Roy O. Martin Lumber Company. A proponent of good forest stewardship, the company is the only Louisiana forest landowner certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.



Dr. Qinglin Wu

Dr. D. Allen Rutherford was recently named as the Bryant A. Bateman Distinguished Professor in Renewable Natural Resources. Dr. Rutherford is a professor of fisheries and coordinator of graduate studies and research in the School. In his 18 years at LSU, he has written for many scientific and technical publications, advised numerous graduate students, secured more than \$7 million in grants and contracts and taught several courses including general ecology, ichthyology and biology of fishes. His primary research and teaching interests are in topics relating to larval, juvenile and adult fish ecology.

Support for the Bryant A. Bateman Professorship was given by Dr. Bateman's niece, Pauline Stanley, and her husband, Ben, and their sons Larry, Paul and Tom Stanley. This professorship honors the memory of Bryant A. Bateman who was the first graduate (BSF 1926) of the Louisiana State University Department of Forestry (now the School of Renewable Natural Resources). After earning a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, Dr. Bateman joined the faculty in the Department of Forestry as the first wildlife faculty member. He taught the first wildlife courses in the School and in the late 1940s developed two fisheries management courses. He can be described as the Father of Wildlife and Fisheries at LSU.



Dr. D. Allen Rutherford

Graphic Packaging Forest Sustainability Fund Established

David Pattison (BSF 1978), director of Sustainability and Family Forests for Graphic Packaging International, recently established the Graphic Packaging Forest Sustainability Fund. The company, headquartered in Marietta, Ga., owns the paper mill in West Monroe, La., and has other installations in the eastern United States and Europe.

The gift of \$10,000 will support research that relates to sustainability of forested landscapes. Examples include biodiversity, ecosystem function, conservation biology, wildlife management and water quality.

"We are, of course, delighted with the gift, because it is consistent with the new direction the School of Renewable Natural Resources has taken in recent years. This kind of work is, in fact, the future of natural resource management. We were one of four natural resource schools in the southern U.S. chosen to receive these funds. We thank Mr. Pattison and his company for the donation and expression of support," said Dr. Bob Blackmon, director, School of Renewable Natural Resources.



David Pattison of Graphic Packaging International presents the check to Dr. Bob Blackmon. The fund will support forested landscapes sustainability research at the School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Club News

Society of American Foresters LSU Student Chapter

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the professional society for foresters in the United States. SAF provides an excellent opportunity for students to network and discuss forestry-related issues.

The executive committee of the forestry club expresses appreciation to the alumni, the local Baton Rouge community and the students and faculty of LSU for their support of the Christmas tree and firewood sale that took place last December.

Several student members received scholarships from the Louisiana Forestry Foundation at the annual LFA luncheon held in Baton Rouge this past September. This fall, Oct. 2 - 6, we traveled to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, for the National SAF Convention, where we met students from across North America and with leading professionals in various natural resource fields.

We will conduct another Christmas tree sale during this holiday season.



RNR students (left to right) Justin Suchy, Mike Deliberto, Angela Secott and Matthew Reed admire the North Fork of the Saskatchewan River in Edmonton, Alberta, where they attended the combined Society of American Foresters/Canadian Institute of Forestry meeting.

News from Xi Sigma Pi

Xi Sigma Pi, a national forestry honor society, extends invitations each semester to students to join the society. Potential members must have completed at least 74 semester hours of credit, be ranked in the top 25% of their class and exhibit technical ability, professionalism, leadership and loyalty to their profession, friends and colleagues.

In the spring of 2004, one undergraduate student and one graduate student were initiated. Dr. Richard Keim, new faculty member in forested wetlands and hydrology, gave a talk in our semi-annual Apple Pie Seminar.

We are proud to report that Angela Secott received the 2003 Xi Sigma Pi Regional Scholarship. This highly competitive award was given to the best candidate among those nominated by eight universities in the West Central region. Angela is our chapter president. Congratulations, Angela!

The LSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society

This has been an eventful, exciting year for the chapter. The club has seen a large enrollment of new student and national members. Our collaboration with the Aquaculture and Fisheries Club produced many successful events, including the annual pig roast, crawfish boil, Ocean Commotion, Tiger Day and game day tailgating. Wildlife Society club T-shirts and camouflage hats will also be sold this year. If you are interested in either, please e-mail us at lsutws@hotmail.com.

We will have a club raffle shortly after classes resume in January. Last spring, club members traveled to Starkville, Miss., with Dr. Mike Chamberlain to work with the carnivore exhibit at Mississippi State University. This spring we will return to help the unit vaccinate resident wildlife species. In April or early May, the annual crawfish boil will be held in conjunction with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Club.

The club Web site and e-mail address are now fully functional. The club Web site can be accessed on the RNR page under "Student Info." The e-mail address is lsutws@hotmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

The Aquaculture and Fisheries Club

During the 2003-2004 academic year, the Aquaculture and Fisheries Club participated in many educational and outreach programs such as LSU AgCenter's Ag Awareness and Louisiana Sea Grant's Ocean Commotion.

The club joined forces with the student organization of Marine Environmental Researchers to host the Louisiana chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society. This gave the club members an opportunity to plan and organize a professional meeting and to participate as moderators, and it gave them a forum to present their research. In conjunction with the meeting, the clubs held a social for the attendees at which a raffle was held to raise money.

The club also hosted the annual fall pig roast along with The Wildlife Society and the spring crawfish boil.

Craig Gothreaux, Paul Becnel and Chad Thomas are officers for the 2004-2005 academic year.



Dr. Mike Chamberlain and Jennifer Yurek with a bobcat at the carnivore exhibit at MSU.

Society of Wetland Scientists Meeting

Three LSU RNR students (**Wes Cochran**, **Sergio Pierluissi** and **Sarah Barlow**), a research associate (**Nicholas Winstead**) and RNR faculty member (**Sammy King**) presented papers at the Society of Wetland Scientists 25th Anniversary meeting in July in Seattle:

Barlow, S. and S.L. King. Monitoring anuran richness and relative abundance in reforested wetlands of central Louisiana.

Cochran, W. and S.L. King. The effect of forest management on salamander species richness and relative abundance in a southeastern bottomland hardwood forest.

Pierluissi, S. and S.L. King. Census and evaluation of waterbirds in Southwestern Louisiana ricefields.

Winstead, N. and S.L. King. Secretive marsh bird and vegetation communities of Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.

American Fisheries Society

Recently, three RNR students, **Jonathan C. Fisher**, **B. Thorpe Halloran** and **Michael D. Kaller**, and RNR research associate **Aaron M. Podey** participated in the 134th Annual Conference of the American Fisheries Society in Madison, Wis. Jonathan presented a paper, "The effects of predator exclusion and position on hydrilla bed macroinvertebrate communities," on his research on fish-macroinvertebrate relationships in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Mike moderated a session of contributed papers and presented a paper, "Seasonally divergent macroinvertebrate community structures in lowland, subtropical streams," on his research in western Louisiana streams. Aaron Podey presented a poster, "Identifying areas in need of water quality improvement in the Atchafalaya River Basin, Louisiana."



Participants in the 134th American Fisheries Society meeting in Madison, Wis., are, from left, Aaron Podey, Mike Kaller, Thorpe Halloran and Jonathon Fisher.

Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists

Seth Bordelon, a wildlife graduate student under Dr. Andy Nyman, presented the results from his master's degree project at the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists meeting in August 2004. The title of his presentation was "Effects of White-tailed Deer Herbivory on the Growth and Survival of Seedlings in a Coastal Wetland Forest."



Seth Bordelon

Forest Products Society

Shadia Duery, a master's degree Forest Products Marketing student, gave a presentation and presented a poster at the 58th Annual Forest Products Society Meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June. Shadia's presentation was titled "An Overview of the Bolivian Forest Products Sector with an Emphasis on Exports."

Francisco Aguilar also presented a poster titled "The Forest Products Sector in Ecuador: The Current Situation and a Framework for Sustainable Development." Francisco also spent the summer as an intern in the Resources for the Future (RFF) Internship Program. Other students in this prestigious program are from Yale, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and New York University. Francisco was stationed at RFF headquarters in Washington, D.C.



Francisco Aguilar

American Ornithologists' Union

Erik Johnson and **Jennifer K. DiMiceli** received travel awards to present posters at the American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Quebec (August 2004). Erik's poster was "Winter territory establishment by Henslow's Sparrows in southeastern Louisiana" and Jennifer's poster was "Seed preferences of Henslow's Sparrows wintering in Southeastern Louisiana." Both posters were co-authored by **Dr. Philip C. Stouffer**.

Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Fisheries

Kangshen Wu presented a paper at the 25th meeting (February 2004) of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Fisheries in Baton Rouge. The paper was titled "Long-term fresh water input of three major tributaries to Lake Pontchartrain."

Student News

Wildlife Society Meeting

Dr. Michael Chamberlain and graduate research assistants John Benson and Holly LeGrand attended The Wildlife Society's annual meeting in Calgary, Alberta, in September and gave the following presentations:

- "Herpetofauna assemblages in a managed bottom-land hardwood forest in Louisiana." Holly G. LeGrand, Juanita M. Constible and Michael J. Chamberlain.

- "Space use and movement patterns of reintroduced Louisiana black bears." John F. Benson and Michael J. Chamberlain.

- "River otter as an indicator of mercury levels in streams of central Louisiana." Daniel G. Scognamillo and Michael J. Chamberlain.

Two posters were presented.

- "Land tenure and home range replacement in bobcats." John F. Benson, Michael J. Chamberlain and Bruce D. Leopold.

- "Landscape characteristics associated with space use patterns of sympatric bobcats, coyotes and gray foxes." Michael J. Chamberlain, Juanita M. Constible and Bruce D. Leopold.



John F. Benson

Scholarships and Awards

William Wayman, a graduate student in the School of Renewable Natural Resources, is one of only two Ph.D. candidates at LSU to win the 2003 Distinguished Dissertation Award. His major professor is Dr. Terry Tiersch. He is the second Tiersch student to win this honor in recent years.

Michael Deliberto, senior forestry student from Hammond, received the first Norwin Linnartz Scholarship. The LSU FWF Alumni Association established the endowed scholarship with the Louisiana Forestry Foundation in memory of the late Dr. Norwin E. Linnartz, professor emeritus of forestry at LSU and executive secretary of the alumni group for the past nine years.

Paul Y. Burns Scholarship

It is my pleasure to announce a campaign to establish the Paul Y. Burns Scholarship. Dr. Burns served as director of the School from 1955 to 1976. Even now he is at the office most days doing volunteer work, such as keeping the School's history and serving as a reviewer of faculty-authored manuscripts. Those of you whose papers were graded by Dr. Burns will remember the tiny, red script he used to correct them. It probably comes from a different pen than it did 40 or 50 years ago, but the ink is still flowing.

Given Dr. Burns' many contributions to our School, we decided to honor him with an endowed scholarship. A couple of months ago I contacted a fairly small group of alumni and friends. The response has been generous, and it is now time to broaden the effort to include all alumni. Our goal is to endow the fund by January 1, 2005. So if you are looking for an excellent tax deduction, a wonderful cause to support and the opportunity to honor a person so important to the lives of so many students, please consider participating in this campaign.

Make your checks payable to the LSU Foundation and indicate on the check that it is to be used for the Paul Y. Burns Scholarship. Mail your contributions to the School of Renewable Natural Resources, Room 227 RNR Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. You and I will be glad you did. Thank you very much. – *Bob Blackmon*

Norwin Linnartz Memorial Scholarship Funded

The FWF Alumni Association has succeeded in raising the money necessary to fund the Linnartz Memorial Scholarship established last year. A total of \$24,430 has been contributed. To date there have been 149 donors. An agreement between the Alumni Association and the Louisiana Forestry Foundation, which has been awarding scholarships to forestry students for many years, was signed September 1. Linnartz scholarship recipients will be juniors or seniors majoring in forestry at LSU. Special thanks are due the donors and to Paul Y. Burns, honorary alumnus and former School director; Thomas Hansbrough, '49 B.S.F., '57 M.F., former director; Jimmy L. Culpepper, '66 B.S.F., immediate past president, FWF Alumni Association; Todd F. Shupe, '96 Ph.D., forestry, FWF Alumni Association executive secretary; Bob G. Blackmon, '69 Ph.D., forestry, director, School of Renewable Natural Resources; C.A Vandersteen, La. Forestry Association executive director; and Joe D. Burns '47 B.S.F., '49 M.F., Louisiana Forestry Foundation president.

Allan L. Ardoin, '77 M.S. forestry, was in a coma for several months after a failed gastric bypass, and after recovering enough to live somewhat independently, is staying

in an assisted living facility in Lafayette, La.

H.M. "Mike" Barnes, '65 B.S.F., '68 M.S. forest products, was the inaugural speaker for the Elvin Choong Lecture Series October 22 at LSU. He holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at

Syracuse and is a professor at Mississippi State University. This year he was selected the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources' Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

Hugh Bateman, '65 M.S. game management, retired from the La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1999. He now works for Ducks Unlimited. He lives with his wife, Lena Raborn Bateman, a retired banker, in Ferriday. Both enjoy outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and following sports programs at LSU and Louisiana Tech. They have a son and a daughter, one grandson and lots of granddogs.

Billy C. Bond, '57 B.S.F., lives in Alabama. He and **Ben Box**, '57 B.S.F., and their wives have been close friends for nearly 50 years. In their university days, fellow forestry students humorously referred to Box and Bond as "The Gold Dust Twins."

James W. Curlin, '59 M.F., served the Carter Administration as deputy assistant secretary of the USDI and deputy assistant secretary of commerce. He also worked 15 years with the Office of Technology Assessment, retiring in 1996. He and two friends sailed their boat from Norfolk, Va., to Portugal. Curlin and his wife, Pat, have been spending six months of each year in the Mediterranean. They now live in Lottsburg, Va.

Robert C. Davidge, '89 M.S. forestry, '98 Ph.D. forestry, wrote from his Oriole Hill Tree Farm in Rhinebeck, N.Y., that his conifer plantations are giving way to the hardwoods, including black walnut, white ash, black cherry, plus occasional butternut.

Pete Gaskin, '61 B.S.F., is active with the LSU Alumni Association in the Oklahoma Central Chapter, which has about 50 members. The group has an annual crawfish boil, LSU game-day parties and Mardi Gras parties.

Pete Heard receives prestigious national award

Career conservationist L. Pete Heard of Brandon, Miss., was honored October 27 for his long-term contributions and commitment to the protection and conservation of natural resources.

Heard was selected as the 2004 winner of the Sustained Achievement Award by the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, based in Bethesda, Md. He joins 12 previous winners who have influenced natural resource conservation on a national scale.

Heard has been with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service for more than 38 years. Among other positions with the agency, Heard served as a biologist in Florida and the Caribbean, state conservationist in Mississippi and as a conservationist on the national wetland team in Washington, D.C. He is director of the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute in Madison, Miss.

Contributions cited include his work nationally to elevate the importance of wildlife habitat on agricultural lands, contributions to workable wildlife provisions in U.S. farm bills and cooperative wildlife habitat research projects across the country with university researchers and wildlife

groups through the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute.

Heard has made more than 1,000 presentations and has published more than 130 papers and articles on all aspects of conservation at the state, national and international levels.

On several occasions, Heard has testified before the U.S. Congress on wildlife management issues. He received his B.S. in forestry and his master's in game management from Louisiana State University. Memberships include Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Mississippi Forestry Association, Calhoun County Forestry Association, Rankin County SWCD, Wildlife Mississippi, Delta Wildlife and several national organizations.



L. Pete Heard

Alumni News

John G. Hamner, '57 B.S.F., retired in 1994 after 37 years with Union Camp Corporation. He is busy with various interests and is thankful that he and his wife, Annette, are in reasonably good health. They live in Bellville, Ga.

Charles O Haynes, '51 B.S.F., retired in 1990 because of severe hearing problems but is in good health. He has given up deer hunting but still continues to fish. He has been married for 49 years, has one daughter and three grandchildren. He lives in Nacogdoches, Texas.

William B. (Bill) Jackson, '54 B.S.F., missed his 50th class celebrations at May's graduation ceremonies because of health problems but continues to be supportive of his alma mater.

H. Lee Jones, Jr., '60 B.S.F., works for J.M. Jones Lumber Company in Natchez, Miss. He still plays tennis every Sunday afternoon, and it takes until Tuesday noon to get over it! He is afraid his son (Howard L. Jones III, '84 B.S.F.), formerly an excellent tennis player, has lapsed into golf.

Bruce R. Miles, '58 B.S.F., retired state forester of Texas, lives in College Station. He volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and last winter supervised prisoners who were clearing brush on a tract where homes are to be built. He also volunteers as a docent at the Bush Presidential Library. He and **Bob Merrifield**, '58 M.F., play golf together. Bob recently had heart surgery and is now walking regularly.

Pat Ebarb, '60 B.S.F., moved back to Houston after five years with the U.S.F.S. and taught high school history for a while.

Robert L. Rumsey, '60 B.S.F., '61 M.S.G.M., '73 Ph.D. forestry, retired from McNeese State University five years ago and is still very active with gardening, growing trees and enjoying life.

RNR Alumni Recognized by Coastal America

Eight alumni of the School of Renewable Natural Resources received Partnership Awards from Coastal America during special ceremonies held at the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on August 18.

Virginia Tippie, director of Coastal America, which is based in Washington, D.C., presented the 2004 Partnership Award on behalf of President Bush to the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force and a large group of individuals. The Task Force operates under CWPPRA, also known as the Breaux Act authorized in 1990, which will provide more than \$1 billion through 2009 for projects that create, protect, restore or enhance Louisiana's coastal wetlands. The task force oversees the implementation of the Breaux Act in Louisiana.

Alumni recognized were **Rex Caffey, Bill Good, Cathy Grouchy, Rick Hartman, Quin Kinler, Andy Nyman, Keith Ouchley and Patrick Williams.**

Chung Hse Receives Forest Service Chief's Honor Award

Chung Hse, '63 M.S. forestry, received the 2004 Forest Service Chief's Honor Award for Distinguished Science.

Chung was honored for "successful conceptualization, development and execution of research," according to the chief, who continued, "your career has been marked by innovation and productivity and has been one of tremendous international collaboration. Your work reflects positively not only on yourself and your unit, but also on the entire Forest Service Research and Development organization."

Chung is an adjunct professor in the School and heavily involved in graduate student committees and research. He is employed by the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station.

He earned a Ph.D. in 1973 from the University of Washington.

Alumni Deaths

Woodrow (Woody) W. Holmes
Died Aug. 27, 2004

B.S.F. 1938

He was a forester who worked for Continental Can Co.

Dr. Albert J. Doucette, Jr.

Died Sept. 4, 2004

M.S. fisheries 1973; Ph.D. zoology

He worked at LSU for nearly nine years and served on the Southeastern Louisiana University faculty from 1985 until his death.

M. Carlton White, Jr.

Died Sept. 27, 2003

M.S. forestry 1969

Leo R. Westmoreland, Sr.

Died June 6, 2004

B.S.F. 1950

He was retired from the La. Forestry Commission and was an independent timber appraiser and buyer.

Daniel K. Tabberer

Died summer 2004

BSF 1969; M.S. game management 1971

He was retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Career opportunities in the conservation, preservation and management of America's natural resources

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. Our undergraduate programs include nine areas of concentration: Aquaculture, Fisheries, Forest Products, Wildlife Ecology, Ecological Restoration, Forest Resource Management, Wildlife Law Enforcement, Conservation Biology and Wetland Science. For more information visit our Web site at www.rnr.lsu.edu.



School of
Renewable Natural Resources

Bob G. Blackmon, Director
William E. Kelso, Associate Director
Melinda Hughes, Editor

School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6200

Tel (225) 578-4131
Fax (225) 578-4227

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

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
William B. Richardson, Chancellor
David J. Boethel, Vice Chancellor
and Director of Research
Paul D. Coreil, Vice Chancellor
and Director of Extension

The LSU Agricultural Center provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. The Louisiana State University and A&M College is an equal opportunity/equal access employer.

Produced by LSU AgCenter Communications



School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6200

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 733
Baton Rouge, LA