Carbon Sequestration Registry:
Creating New Markets for Georgia Forestland Owners
First I want to say thanks to all of those individuals that have been so helpful and welcoming as Warnell starts a new academic year with a new administration. Larry Morris (Graduate Coordinator), Ron Hendrick (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs), and I are all new to our positions. We are all excited and hopeful that our contributions will improve already strong programs here at Warnell. Special thanks go to Rosemary Wood, Heather Reed, and Gail Lebengood as they try mightily to train those of us who have been declared, at times, untrainable. Also, over the past year we have been lucky to have Dr. Bob Warren at the helm of our School. We didn’t miss a beat due to Bob’s diligence, sage advice, and constant care of our programs. Dr. Warren has been at Warnell almost 25 years and has been instrumental in the development and maintenance of one of the strongest wildlife programs in the world. We are truly fortunate to have an individual of Bob’s caliber around to lead Warnell through our latest transition period. Thanks Bob!

Thanks to Dick Porterfield who guided us through a three year period where Warnell and its programs expanded substantially in breadth. We have added a Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism major (Drs. Michael Tarrant, Gary Green, Craig Miller, and Uttiyo Raychaudhuri), pursued expanding our soil and water resources programs with the addition of a water economist (Dr. Rebecca Moore), and further strengthened an already strong wildlife management program with the hire of Dr. John Maerz – a herpetologist. We have also been fortunate in filling Dr. Barry Shiver’s boots with Dr. Michael Kane. Mike brings a wealth of knowledge about the silviculture of southern pines to our forestry programs. Dr. Jeff Hepinstall has joined Warnell with a background in landscape planning and analysis, and Dr. Michael Yabsley has a joint wildlife disease position between Warnell and The College of Veterinary Medicine. Most recently we have filled a vacant position in our fisheries program with Dr. Robert Bringolf, who brings substantial expertise in environmental and molecular toxicology. Welcome to all of these individuals as they become familiar with our School.

It is the people we hire and the resources we have available that make our programs succeed. Strong programs are resource magnets — they allow us to compete for grants, hire the best and brightest new faculty, and pursue emerging areas of natural resources management. It is these individuals that have in the past, and will continue in the future, to make a difference to our programs. An important goal over the next year is to fill several positions that are important to our traditional programs, including positions in forest economics and forest finance.

Enrollment has increased some 23% over the 2006 academic year with substantial increases coming in both wildlife and forestry. We had a great recruiting effort thanks to David Botelho, Emily Saunders, and many of the faculty and staff who participated in these recruiting programs. Similarly, our graduate programs continue to prosper with over 160 students enrolled this academic year, and 75% of those students are supported by teaching and research assistantships. Our graduate programs have never been stronger.

Warnell is changing as we expand traditional programs and add new ones to our School. Across UGA and the State of Georgia Warnell provides expertise on the management of natural resources. We have educated natural resource leaders for over 100 years, and I look forward to building on that history. I was fortunate to have experienced that commitment as a student here at Warnell and am committed to continuing to provide that support and direction as our Dean.

Sincerely,

Michael Clutter,
Dean, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
Michael Clutter (MFR ’83, Ph.D. ’93) took his first steps into the halls of the Warnell School’s “Classic Building” when he was just three years old. His father, Jerome Clutter, had just accepted a faculty position at the UGA School of Forestry as the Union Camp Professor of Forest Biometrics and was set to embark on a twenty-year career revolutionizing the disciplines of timber harvest scheduling and forest biometrics.

At that time, none of the faculty, staff or students could have known they were meeting a future dean of the school, but on July 19, 2007, Clutter accepted UGA President Michael Adams’ offer to become the 10th dean of the Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Dean Clutter believes his father would have been quite proud of his career successes, especially becoming dean of the Warnell School. “I have been extremely lucky to have grown up in a household where forestry issues were dinner conversation. That exposure had an immeasurable impact on my career as a natural resource professional.”

However, deanships are not passed along as patronage positions in the 21st century, even though Clutter’s appointment adds significance to the family tradition that has developed at the Warnell School over the past 100 years. Michael Clutter has earned his stripes over his career. Even as a high school student he was running tours on Plantation Management Research Cooperative (PMRC) research plots and washing glassware in Dr. Claud Brown’s tissue-culture lab. “Working several summers in Dr. Brown’s lab was part of my long introduction to forest biotechnology,” Clutter said.

He then began his professional career as a forester for Georgia Kraft Corporation in the summer of his junior year at Mississippi State University (1980). Most recently, Clutter became the Hargreaves Distinguished Professor of Forest Finance at the Warnell School beginning in 2001. Over the course of his career, Clutter has earned a doctorate in forest finance from the Warnell School, served in executive positions for Union Camp and subsequently the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, and taught forest finance at both the Warnell School and in UGA’s Terry College of Business. Clutter also practices his business acumen as a member of the Board of Directors for several forestry related corporations.

Professionally, Clutter has dedicated his career to service for the forest industry, and the University. His service to industry includes terms on the American Forest and Paper Association Forest Inventory Committee from 1989 – present (Chair 1994-97), the United States Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Review Committee from 2001-05, the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF)
The Warnell School hired Emily Lakemaker in August 2007 to fill the student recruitment coordinator position. She has a bachelor’s degree in communications and a master’s degree in public administration from Columbus State University, and is excited about advancing her experience in recruitment. Before joining the staff of the Warnell School, Lakemaker worked for the Concharty Council (SW Georgia) of the Girls Scouts of America in programming and recruitment.

This position, initially created in Winter 2006, was vacated by previous student coordinator David Botelho after he relocated to a new job in Atlanta.

As the student recruiter, Emily is responsible for managing outreach to students, parents, guidance counselors, alumni or any constituent who has an interest in the programs offered at the Warnell School. This position is also responsible for development and implementation of the School’s student recruitment program. If you are, or know of, a prospective student interested in learning more about what the Warnell School has to offer, please contact Emily Lakemaker at 706.542.0879, or email elakemaker@warnell.uga.edu.

Warnell School NRRT faculty and several graduate students joined together on Monday, September 10 to hold the inaugural meeting of UGA student chapter of the Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism (NRRT) Society. All meetings are open to any UGA student who wishes to learn more about outdoor recreation management and participate in service-learning projects maintaining local area recreation resources.

The mission of this student organization includes “fostering appreciation of natural resources through promotion of sustainable recreational opportunities, and to contribute to the conservation, stewardship, enhancement and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources and the management of those resources in a way that produces both land health and human benefits,” according to Allison Ginn, acting president of the group until formal elections can be held later this fall.

The UGA NRRT Society plans to meet the second Monday of each month of the fall and spring semesters. If you are interested in learning more, and joining the UGA student chapter of the NRRT Society, contact Allison Ginn at ginna@warnell.uga.edu.
Warnell School education program specialist Gail Lutowski hosted the “Effingham County Girls in Science Open House” at the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center in Guyton, GA on Saturday, August 18th, 2007. At the “Open House,” school age girls from Effingham and Chatham Counties interacted with professional women scientists, including Dr. Sara Schweitzer and graduate student Amanda Newman from the Warnell School, from a wide variety of disciplines through presentations and hands-on educational activities.

The open house serves as both a stand-alone educational event and a recruitment forum where participating students have the opportunity to join the Effingham Girls in Science program. Membership provides access to a series of monthly meetings and field trips held throughout the school year, and increased exposure to professional female scientists willing to mentor and provide guidance to aspiring female scientists. The Effingham County Girls in Science Program was co-founded by Lutowski in the fall of 2004. Its mission is twofold: 1) To encourage middle and high school girls in Effingham and surrounding counties to pursue science, engineering, and mathematics in their future studies; and 2) To promote self-confidence and leadership among the girls by challenging their intellect, as well as their own ideas of “what science is.” The goal is to give girls exposure to women who can serve as professional role models.

For more information about “Girls in Science,” contact Gail Lutowski at 912.330.0531.
Warnell School Student Ambassadors held a retreat to earn individual certification in WET, WILD, and PLT from Aug 24-26 at the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center in Guyton, Ga. As a result, ambassadors are now eligible and available to teach environmental education programs to K-12 students across Georgia. As part of the two-day retreat, ambassadors received instruction from Georgia PLT, WET & WILD leaders Carla Rapp (GFA), Gail Lutowski and Kris Irwin (Warnell School), Kathy Gunn (Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center) and Daniel Wescott (GFC). This retreat was generously funded by the UGA Parents and Families Association and the Warnell School. Anyone interested in having a Warnell School Student Ambassador teach environmental education programs to their local school children should contact Emily Saunders, Warnell School student services coordinator, at esaunders@warnell.uga.edu.

Commemorative Benches

Warnell School students and alumni have been blessed to receive instruction from some of the nation’s most enlightened faculty, who also possessed the highest quality of character. This past year, even before becoming the 10th dean of the School, Michael Clutter funded the installation of eight granite benches in front of Building Two to commemorate some of the School’s more recognizable former faculty members who have passed away. Six of the benches have already been dedicated to Professors Mervin Reines, Archie Patterson, Charlie Fitzgerald, John Hewlett, Jerry Clutter, and Leon Hargreaves. To date, two benches still remain to be dedicated.

If you are interested in dedicating one of the two remaining benches to one of your favorite Warnell School retired faculty members, contact Director of Development Ali Gant at (706) 542-1011. The benches have become a popular respite for students seeking a place to study, or to enjoy some quiet time when the weather is favorable.
When Georgia’s record-setting wildfires burned through southeast Georgia forests this past spring, it was clear to the faculty, staff and administration that the School had an obligation to provide assistance in any way it could. “We felt strongly that the Warnell School needed to take an active role in helping our clients in southeast Georgia,” said Mike Mengak, associate professor and wildlife specialist, who is coordinating the recovery program. “That is why we created the Georgia Forest Fire Recovery Program.”
Unlike many state universities, whose missions focus primarily on teaching and research, The University of Georgia also considers service to state citizens a primary responsibility, especially those citizens that find themselves in distress. In the case of the Warnell School, the non-industrial forest landowners of Georgia are recognized as a primary target for its service mission, and at no time has there ever been an occasion that the School’s services would be more needed. So when the magnitude of these fires became clear, the Warnell School moved quickly, in coordination with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), to determine how it could assist landowners in the areas that continued to be threatened by fires, and then help those who suffered losses after the flames were finally extinguished.

After extensive discussions among faculty and administration, the School developed the multi-stage “Georgia Forest Fire Recovery Program” first to provide immediate support for the fire fighters on the front lines, then to bring information and assistance to landowners that can help them make informed decisions about their future. The final stage of this recovery program will be a comprehensive conference about this historic event, inviting forestry and natural resource scientists and professionals for discussions about research and service opportunities, and development of publications that can help both the scientific community and the public better understand what has happened, and what can be done to mitigate such a catastrophe in the future.

“Our goals with this program are to provide resources and information to landowners affected by the fires and to assist them with the recovery of their forests” said Mengak.

Stage one of the GFFRP consisted of a university-wide donation campaign for the fire fighters battling this seemingly never-ending blaze. While the Warnell School organized and coordinated this donation campaign as one piece of the Georgia Forestry Association’s state-wide donation drive, the Athens and UGA communities deserve great credit for donating enough supplies to fill a large SUV and...
full-size station wagon on only one week’s notice. These supplies were collected at the Warnell School, then transported to GFA headquarters in Forsyth, Ga. on June 5.

“We know the Warnell School and UGA community are very generous, but we are amazed by how many individuals, and units, that took the time to purchase these donations and deliver them to the Warnell School,” Bob Warren, Interim Dean at the time, said in a press release thanking the UGA community for their donations. “We can not thank the UGA community enough for their tremendous generosity, and hope all who donated items recognize how grateful the firefighters are to receive them.”

Stage two of the GFFRP began in late June with organizational meetings in southeast Georgia. Warnell School faculty met with federal, state and local forestry leaders to determine what kind of information landowners needed to assist them with the recovery process. They also discussed how faculty and Forestry Area Specialty Agent Trained (FASAT) Cooperative Extension agents in Brantley, Clinch, Ware, Charlton and Lanier counties could best deliver valuable assistance to affected landowners. Soon after strategy coordination meetings with service organizations concluded, Warnell School faculty joined members of GFC in collecting information on landowner needs at town meetings in Jesup, Waycross, and Statesboro. “This will allow us to design future landowner workshops and training sessions,” Mengak said.

To allow forest landowners immediate access to important information and recovery opportunities, and provide details on landowner meeting dates and locations, the Warnell School has also developed the GFFRP website at www.warnell.uga.edu/wildfire.

The recovery program’s final stage will be organization of a comprehensive conference for academics and professionals to review what occurred, and better understand lessons learned on the fire lines.

The hearts and prayers of all members of the Warnell School family are with Georgia’s forest landowners who have had property destroyed by these record-setting wildfires. The Warnell School is determined to assist these landowners with recovery and hope the Georgia Forest Fire Recovery Program will be an effective process for achieving this goal.
Michael Tarrant named 2007 Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor

Michael Tarrant, professor of human dimensions in the natural resources recreation and tourism program, was named a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor at the UGA faculty recognition banquet held April 12 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. The Meigs Professorship recognizes excellence in instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels and is the highest teaching recognition that can be bestowed upon a UGA faculty member. Tarrant’s leadership and outstanding teaching programs resulted in the creation of the natural resources recreation and tourism program at the Warnell School in 2006.

Tarrant also directs the Office of Studies Abroad in the South Pacific, which offers programs ranging from a few weeks to a semester in Antarctica, Australia, Belize, Fiji, and New Zealand. The courses are field-based and focus on globalization and sustainable development, blending social and physical sciences to understand the connection between humans and the natural environment. Over the past 15 years Michael has worked with over 1,000 students at UGA, climbing glaciers and diving the Great Barrier Reef to learn about global climate change and hiking through Southern hemisphere rainforest and on sub-Antarctic islands to explore the diversity of life on this planet. Upcoming programs in the South Pacific will soon be made available for alumni participation. For more information on Studies Abroad in the South Pacific go to www.uga.edu/oie/southpacific.

Jeff Dean receives approval to genetically sequence conifers

Jeffrey Dean, professor of forest biotechnology, is spearheading a project at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute (JGI) that will greatly expand the gene catalog for pines and initiate the first gene discovery efforts in five other conifer families. The project will be a significant piece of the JGI’s Community Sequencing Program, which focuses state-of-the-art genome analysis resources on biological organisms that have implications for helping wean the nation’s dependence on fossil fuel.

The goal of Dean’s research is to produce a comprehensive catalog of all the genes expressed as conifers grow, develop and respond to their environments. By comparing genes expressed by different conifer species in similar tissues under similar conditions, scientists will be able to more quickly identify the key genes controlling tree growth and development. Such studies will also improve our understanding of the formation of biomass components such as lignin that impede production of biofuels from lignocellulosic materials, including wood.
Scott Merkle wins Society of American Foresters 2007 Barrington Moore Award

Scott A. Merkle, professor of forest biotechnology, was recognized by SAF last June with the prestigious Barrington Moore Award. This award, given to Merkle in recognition of his substantial body of work in somatic embryogenesis, recognizes outstanding achievement in biological research leading to the advancement of forestry, according to SAF.

The Award is named after Barrington Moore, a prominent member of the first generation of American foresters who had a strong interest in the establishment of a sound biological basis for the practice of forestry. “Dr. Merkle’s research has concentrated on adapting the in vitro phenomenon known as somatic embryogenesis for mass clonal propagation and genetic manipulation of southern forest species,” according to Jim Sweeney, associate dean at the Warnell School. “Scott’s primary motivation for his research has been the improvement of southern hardwoods and conifers for industrial and ornamental purposes. However, his work has expanded to include significant advances in environmental remediation.”

Robert B. Bringolf, assistant professor of aquatic toxicology, joined the faculty effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Bringolf was previously a research associate at North Carolina State University. He will occupy a teaching and research position within the Warnell School in the area of Fisheries Biology and Aquatic Ecosystem Health.

Kim D. Coder, professor of urban forestry and tree health care, was recently awarded the R.W. Harris Author’s Citation Award by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) at the opening ceremony of the ISA’s annual international conference held on July 29. The R.W. Harris Author’s Citation Award is granted to authors from around the world for their excellent scientific writing skills published over many years. The ISA is the largest professional association of urban and community foresters and arborists in North America and around the world, with more than 20,000 members.

Mike Mengak, associate professor and wildlife specialist, participated in landowner meetings held in Waycross and Jesup on July 11 & 12, to hear from those directly affected by the South Georgia wildfires. Mengak, along with representatives from the Georgia Forestry Commission and other landowner service providers, met to get a better understanding of what kind of assistance affected landowners need from service organizations to help them determine the best future strategy for their land. More than 100 people were in attendance for the Waycross meeting at Waycross High School.

Karl Miller, professor of wildlife ecology, and David Osborne, research associate and manager of the Warnell School’s Deer Pen research facility, are featured in the September edition of Outdoor Life Magazine. The article on their research, “Don’t Bother With Scraps,” can be found on page HB14.

J.P. Bond

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Joe Nairn, assistant professor of forest genomics, met with the Rotary Club of Madison County during their regular meeting on Friday, July 13, to discuss turtle protection and management from the perspective of conservation genetics research. As noted in the July 19 edition of The Madison County Journal, Nairn provided detailed discussions on the Warnell School’s research and outreach missions and how genetic research into tree and wildlife species is improving natural resource conservation.

Uttiyo Raychaudhuri, academic professional associate in the natural resources recreation and tourism program, was one of nine University of Georgia faculty members to be named a 2007-2008 Service-Learning Fellow by The Office of Service-Learning, a program jointly supported by the Offices of the Vice President for Instruction and the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. The Service-Learning Fellows program provides an opportunity for faculty members from a broad range of disciplines to develop, implement and integrate service-learning into their professional practice. Dr. Raychaudhuri’s project involves the study of traditional Fijian environmental practice.

Whether through intensive plantation management or natural forest succession, Warnell School forestry and soils faculty have a passion for trees and forests. Until recently, this passion was primarily motivated by the desire to develop healthier natural forests and improve timber yields from managed plantations. Now, however, the productive benefits of natural forests and managed plantations have gained additional value as a storage bank for the increasing amounts of carbon being placed in our atmosphere by continuous and increased burning of fossil fuels. As a result, Warnell School faculty are now assisting the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) in accurately recording the carbon storage capacity of Georgia’s forests.

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-nineteenth century, western society has burned fossil fuels as a primary method for energy generation. While fossil fuel energy production increased quality of life and economic growth for westerners, from improved food storage to increased transportation opportunities, it also resulted in “a significant, quantifiable increase in carbon dioxide (CO2) build-up in the earth’s atmosphere,” according to Bob Teskey, distinguished research professor in forest ecology. Many scientists and experts believe this increase in atmospheric CO2 is a primary contributor to recent global climate change (warming).

Scientists and carbon experts from around the globe have spent the past several years searching for methods to reduce the amount of fossil fuel-originated CO2 presently entering Earth’s atmosphere, according to Teskey. Many methods have been explored, including pushing CO2 exhaust deep into the earth or oceans. However, one solution always seems to move to the forefront of best possible opportunities for carbon sequestration – the storage of carbon in trees.

“Trees, and the soils they grow in, are possibly the single most efficient storage unit for excess carbon,” Teskey emphasizes.

If this belief is verified, Georgia, the most heavily forested state in the nation, stands to become a worldwide leader in carbon sequestration. So during the 2004 legislative session, the Georgia legislature passed Senate Bill 356, which established the Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry.

“The purpose of the Registry is to provide forest landowners, municipalities, and public and private entities with an official mechanism for the development, documentation, and reporting of carbon sequestration projects undertaken in Georgia,” according to Joshua Love, GFC’s coordinator of the Registry.

While the purpose of developing the Registry was made clear by Georgia legislators, there was limited agreement on what protocols should be followed to accurately record the levels of carbon that are being sequestered in Georgia forests. Up to now, the only significant carbon registry programs available to duplicate were the Chicago Climate Exchange, and the California Climate Action Registry. However, Georgia’s leadership found too many restrictions and too much market interference within the protocols of these programs, according to Daniel Markewitz, associate professor of soil-site productivity. “So it was determined to create an improved program for Georgia that might also serve as a better model for the region, or nation.”

“The intention is to take advantage of this recent opportunity and help develop new ecosystem service markets for forest landowners,” Markewitz explains. “However, the Registry itself is not to be involved in monetary transactions.”

Georgia’s leadership chose not to identify any specific market platform to operate within, and eventually determined that such a market would naturally develop by itself, with limited influence from regulators to protect against significant market distortions. Therefore, Georgia’s Carbon Sequestration Registry was developed to provide reliable governance to oversee certified Registry projects so buyers of registered carbon credits can be guaranteed of the service they are purchasing.

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Dan Markewitz

By Eugene MacIntyre
"The Registry will minimize fraud by conducting audits on registered projects to ensure they are abiding by Registry protocols, which should develop confidence in the marketable product," Markewitz said.

While GFC is responsible for managing the Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry, it requested the assistance of many Warnell School faculty members to help develop reliable protocols that can dependably warrant registered projects. The first step was to determine just how much CO2 Georgia trees and soils can capture.

Markewitz took the lead researching soil carbon sequestration potential, while Teskey concentrated on the ability of tree root systems to store carbon. Bruce Borders, professor of biometrics and mensuration, agreed to research the carbon banking potential of the above-ground sections of trees.

Once the carbon capturing capacity of Georgia trees and soils were quantified, the next step involved developing protocols concerning perpetual management of registered carbon sequestration projects. As previously stated, Georgia’s leadership found the protocols of existing carbon registries too complicated and restrictive, with too many regulations that could potentially interfere with market productivity. The three primary issues of concern include “additionality,” “leakage,” and carbon captured in forest products.

According to Markewitz, “Only carbon accumulation above base-line levels expected from natural forest growth are eligible for the Kyoto Protocol.” The above natural base-line level is considered “additionality.” Not only is this requirement difficult to quantify, it also severely limits the amount of captured CO2 that can be certified for marketable trade credits.

Other carbon registry protocols also include “leakage” provisions that strictly prohibit large forest landowners from increasing harvest in other sections of their forests to replace the lost potential of small portions that have been placed in a conservation easement, or on a carbon registry. Georgia’s Registry will not audit for leakage, however, landowners with registered projects are asked to be conscientious of this concern, according to Love.

The final concern was quantification of carbon captured in forest products. Trees from a mid-rotation harvest are most likely to become pulp or fuel, neither of which hold carbon in stasis once chips and residues are broken-down mechanically or chemically. Trees harvested for saw timber, however, are likely to be made into a solid wood product that will continue to hold much of its carbon base for many years to come.

“Other carbon registries do not recognize that some of the carbon removed from forests by harvest remains within the solid wood," according to Jacek Siry, assistant professor of forest economics who researched the carbon capacity of solid forest products for protocol development. “Therefore, once a landowner conducts a harvest, their credit baseline returns to zero, and they receive no credit for the carbon that remains in solid wood products made from their trees.”
Georgia’s leadership refused to ignore this provision, so Siry recommended the use of tables developed by the Forest Service’s Forest Product Labs that “allow landowners to quantify the amount of carbon lost, and the amount that remains captured in forest products after a harvest is completed,” he said. By following these tables, Registry projects should never lose all of their carbon credits after a harvest is completed, as long as they reforest the cut-over land. Instead, their credit baseline should continue to accumulate.

The final step for development of reliable protocols governing Georgia’s Carbon Registry involved audits and verification. According to Pete Bettinger, associate professor of harvest scheduling and forest landscape planning, who agreed to develop audit and verification protocols along with Chris Cieszewski, associate professor of fiber supply assessment, “there is simply not enough affordable labor to manually conduct monitoring and oversight of all the acreage that might be placed on Georgia’s Carbon Registry. Therefore, we have developed methods using satellite and aerial imagery to monitor registered projects and ensure they are abiding by the formal protocols of the Registry.”

“We’ve tried to maintain simplicity,” Markewitz says of the protocols develop for Georgia’s Carbon Registry. All of the leadership overseeing the development and management of Georgia’s Carbon Registry maintain the unified belief that increased simplicity in registration of carbon sequestration projects will increase forest landowner participation and grow Georgia’s Carbon Registry into one of the most reliable and productive in the world.

Like many of Georgia’s forestland owners, the Warnell School, which owns and manages more than 23,000 acres of Georgia forestland, is eager to begin participation in Georgia’s Carbon Registry to quantify the sequestration capacity of its forests. And if a buyer makes an attractive offer, the School’s administration will determine whether or not to begin trading registered carbon credits for additional foundation revenues.

Siry, the primary investigator on the Georgia Traditional Industries Program (TIP3) grant that funded development of Registry protocols, is pleased with the final product that has been developed. “I believe these protocols should provide a reliable process to evaluate projects applying for inclusion on the Registry,” he said. “Georgia’s Traditional Industries Program has provided a tremendous service to Georgia’s stakeholders by supporting development of Georgia’s Carbon Registry.”

Georgia forestland owners enjoy the privilege of operating in the “Wood Basket” of North America. In the past, they have benefited from strong markets for pulp and saw timber. However, as those markets have weakened over the past several years, the state’s leadership, in the form of the GFC and elected officials, has searched far and wide to develop new markets for forestland owners to participate in. Environmental services, clean air and water, have always been an unrecognized benefit of well-managed forestlands, but landowners receive no return for their investment in these services. But now, for the first time in many years, state and industry leaders have identified a new market with strong potential, and Warnell School faculty are pleased to contribute their expert knowledge to developing market foundations that can benefit all Georgia forestland owners interested in participating.

In addition, Markewitz has developed a website where forestland owners with registered projects can learn more about trading carbon credits for revenue. For more information on trading carbon credits, visit www.carbon.sref.info. If you would like to learn more about the Georgia Carbon Registry, visit the GFC Registry website at http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/ForestMarketing/CarbonRegistryDocs.cfm, or contact Josh Love at GFC.
Michael Clutter: Continued

Timberland Committee from 2001-present, and the National Council of Air and Stream Improvement Biometrics committee from 2002 to present. His service to the University includes membership on the UGA ITAC committee on computers and infrastructure (2005), the Honors Faculty Mentor Program (2003), Graduate Council (2003), and the Graduate School faculty (2001).

In 2004, just three years after beginning his teaching career at the Warnell School, Clutter was awarded the Forest Resources Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Clutter began his college education at Mississippi State University as a business major, but soon transferred to the forestry program to focus on an education in forestry. “Like many who grow-up around our industry, I found a lot of tradition and comraderie that was attractive to me,” Clutter said. “That is one reason why I chose a career in forestry.”

Upon completion of his MFR degree (1983), Clutter initially decided to work in private industry, as opposed to following his father’s footsteps into academia. “I had an applied science background in forestry and I wanted to put the tools I learned in school to work in private industry,” Clutter said. It was later in life, as he began teaching training programs to industry professionals, that Clutter began to develop the itch to become a college faculty member.

When Dean Richard “Dick” Porterfield retired in the fall of 2006, Clutter saw a chance to increase his opportunities to serve the Warnell School, and UGA, so he submitted an application to fill the vacant dean position. “I decided to apply primarily because I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to give back to the program that provided me such a solid foundation for a successful career,” Clutter said.

Now that Clutter has accepted the dean position at the Warnell School, he has identified certain trends that will strongly influence the future direction of the School. “Three that I consider to be vitally important include (1) the changing structure of the forest products and timberland industry in the South and Georgia, (2) the continued population growth in the South and its impact on land use, and (3) post-secondary education funding and its impact on teaching, research, and service resources,” Clutter said.

“Our School has already responded to many of these trends by redesigning our curriculum, expanding the majors offered, and shifting resources among subject areas,” he continued. “However, a primary challenge through all of these changes is to maintain our core strengths while expanding into new areas of teaching, research, and service emphasis. Balancing this portfolio of activities is a critical strategic activity for both the faculty and the administration of our School. To be successful in this activity will require us to pursue new and innovative sources for resources, to have an increased appreciation for the impacts of specific decisions on our programs, and to formulate a common view of opportunities and goals for the Warnell School.”

“If resources were unlimited, it would be an easy job,” Clutter said, “but it’s not.”

Clutter is always happy when he sees familiar faces from times past visiting the School, and hopes more alumni will take advantage of the many School events, such as homecoming, that allow former students and faculty to reminisce. “Come back and get to know the School again,” he said. “The School has grown as new initiatives in natural resources management has expanded.”

“Alumni involvement and support is a key component for the School to continue to serve its mission well.”

Over the past 100 years the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources has grown in its mission, and in its importance in helping manage Georgia’s forests and natural resources. Warnell School Alumni and faculty are very proud of the role they have developed in managing Georgia’s forests and natural resources, and Dean Michael Clutter is determined to enhance that role.
Quail, pheasant, francolin, partridge, guinea fowl, and snowcock—what do all these birds have in common? If you said they are in the order Galliformes, you are correct, but these ground birds are also synonymous with the research and career of Warnell’s own John P. Carroll.

Born in Boston and raised in western Massachusetts, Carroll traveled the United States as he earned his education, receiving his bachelor’s degree at the University of Massachusetts in 1979, his master’s degree at Eastern Kentucky University in 1982, and his PhD at the University of North Dakota in 1989. Determined to make his mark on wildlife conservation, he moved to Pennsylvania, where he initiated the wildlife biology major at the California University of Pennsylvania.

Itching for a new challenge, Carroll traveled with his family to the United Kingdom, pursuing a career as head of the Lowland Gamebird Research Unit for The Game Conservancy Trust. After two years of tea and biscuits, Carroll found his way to Athens, Georgia, in 1998, where he joined the faculty of Warnell as professor of wildlife ecology and management, where once again, he is leaving his mark. Carroll has published more than 60 scientific articles, written species accounts for the Academy of Natural Science’s *Birds of North America*, has ongoing international research projects from Asia to Africa to South America, and is chair of the Partridge, Quail, and Francolin Specialist Group for the World Conservation Union (ICUN). With all these outside demands, Carroll still finds the time to work with his numerous graduate and undergraduate students.
While listening to lectures in Applied Population Dynamics, Wildlife Management in Agricultural Ecosystems, and International Conservation, students enjoy the quirky and often off-topic thought processes of Carroll, as he enlightens eager minds about various subjects ranging from impacts of agriculture practices on bobwhite quail in Georgia, to elephant culling issues in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. Since coming to UGA, Carroll has also completed visiting professorships in Germany and Thailand. His schedule is already filling with upcoming trips to China, where he is taking three students to the International Galliformes Symposium, and the first Species Survival Commission Chair’s Conference in Abu Dhabi. Just recently he was asked to serve on the scientific committee of the International Union of Game Biologists biannual conference to be held in Russia. Despite a spate of interesting travel incidents that include getting parasites in India—to more than a dozen rabies vaccines in the Republic of Georgia—to a recent venomous spider bite in South Africa, Carroll is not slowing down.

What’s next? International issues in conservation. As he likes to point out, we are no longer individual countries, but nations united in common natural resource problems. Growing concerns about water and food supplies, endangered species and land use impacts are now challenges for the global community. Carroll emphasizes these topics in his study abroad programs in the Republic of Georgia and South Africa, allowing UGA students to witness firsthand how other countries tackle conservation issues that are similar to our own. He is expanding his South Africa course to include a wider audience of American students and, at the same time, is working on several projects that will integrate students from other countries into courses here at home.

Carroll has said, “You are likely to think a lot harder about bombing someplace if you have friends there.” While stated in his usual blunt style, he means we are all global neighbors, and the world is too small a place for us not to work together to solve conservation problems. John Carroll, world-traveling master of Galliformes—has been there, done that—and has the T-shirts to prove it!

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John Carroll brings a unique international perspective to Warnell’s Wildlife Program. He has professional contacts and has conducted wildlife research in every continent on this planet! He also is dedicated to incorporating students--both graduate and undergraduate--into his efforts in international wildlife conservation and research. The Warnell School is truly fortunate to have a faculty member with his worldwide experience.

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-- Professor Bob Warren

From Left to Right:

Back Row: Ginger Humphries, John Carroll, Dee Lawson, Matt Erickson, Sally Christopher, Chris Keesecker, Brett Greenaway

Front Row: Bruce Lawson, Phinizy Spalding, Joanna Stevens, Ami Flowers, Rachel Steffens, Amanda Chapman
The island nation of Indonesia has seen dramatic population increases over the past 20 years, resulting in rapidly increasing pressures on indigenous natural resources, especially forests. Yoki Hadiprakarsa, a master’s degree student in the Warnell School’s wildlife management and ecology program, has witnessed the rapid increase in demand for forest resources first hand as a native of the island of Java. While completing his BS degree in biology at the University of Pakuan (Indonesia), he conducted field research on four species of hornbills indigenous to the island of Sumatra, also in Indonesia, and fell in love with this family of birds. “The bird is really magnificent,” he exclaims. His research now focuses on how forest fragmentation variables influence the persistence of the bird across landscapes.

Soon after beginning his bachelor’s degree program in 1994, Yoki began working for the Wildlife Conservation Society as a biologist studying the effects of forest fragmentation on the hornbills of Indonesia, and beyond. His first boss “was the world expert on hornbills,” he says, which only reinforced his passion. He has also joined the Indonesian Ornithologists Union, and been named co-chair of the Asian Hornbill Network. Even before completion of his graduate degree, “Yoki is considered an international expert on hornbills,” according to his faculty advisor John Carroll. He has delivered presentations on his research at conferences in South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, and elsewhere.

Yoki Hadiprakarsa can be contacted by email at yhadiprakarsa@gmail.com and also through his website: http://hadiprakarsa.com
Andrew McCarley: Experienced Wildfire Fighter

Andrew McCarley likes things hot. After graduating Lassiter High School in East Cobb County, he earned a mechanic’s degree and worked on hot cars, such as Porsches and Mercedes. But it turned out “I did not like being in the shop all day,” Andrew said. He felt too confined and gained an interest in working outdoors. So he began working on a bachelor’s degree at Dalton State University and went to work for the USDA Forest Service as a wilderness ranger in the Cohutta Wilderness Area of North Georgia. In this position his primary responsibility was to patrol the backcountry and assist hikers and horseback riders. “I did not have a vehicle, so they would drop me off and I would walk a lot - which was great,” he emphasized.

Andrew is now a senior wildlife and forestry major at the Warnell School and continues to work for the Forest Service as a forestry technician at the Southeastern Research Station across the street from the School. He is also a trained wildfire fighter. And while unable to help with the record wildfires in southeastern Georgia this past spring because of Maymester courses, he did get to spend a month fighting wildfires in California over the summer. “I worked with type-III engines and did an initial attack on several small lightning strike fires,” he said. Once he has completed his BSFR at the Warnell School, Andrew hopes he can continue his career with the Forest Service.

Jay Chupp, graduate student in the forestry program, was awarded a competitive scholarship to the Practicing Foresters Institute and Annual Association of Consulting Foresters in State College, PA this past July. Only four national scholarships are awarded in each year.

Nico Dauphine and Josh Romeis, Warnell School doctoral students, were awarded Dissertation Completion Awards for 2007-2008 from UGA.

Ami Flowers, undergraduate major in wildlife management and ecology, extended her stay in South Africa for four weeks this past summer, after participating in Dr. John Carroll’s Study Abroad in South Africa International Wildlife Management program, to complete both Field Guide (level one) and Trails Guide certification from the Field Guide Association of Southern Africa.

Tiffany Li, forestry graduate student, had the following paper recently published in the Journal Cartographica:


Kate Spear, wildlife graduate student and current President of the Warnell Graduate Student Association, received an Honorable Mention for her grant proposal before the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program 2007. Her proposal discussed developing an avian monitoring program in response to increased ecotourism initiatives in Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria. Overall, NSF received more than 9,000 applications for the 2007 competition. Spear was also selected to receive a Fellowship for the 2007-2008 Individual Advanced Research Opportunity (IARO) Program, sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), Washington, D.C. The national competition for this year’s program was very competitive, and her application was considered outstanding. The Fellowship included airfare, visas, medical evacuation insurance, and a monthly stipend to cover housing and living expenses during her work in Bulgaria, June-July 2007. Finally, Spear’s grant proposal to the Georgia Ornithological Society and its 2007 H. Branch Howe Research Grant program was awarded funding. She received $2,500 for her proposal, “Developing an Avian Population Monitoring Program for Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria.”

Jeffrey J. Thompson, graduate student in the wildlife program, had “A Game Bird of Another Feather,” an article about Tinamous (bird) hunting in South America, published in the March/April 2007 edition of Quail Unlimited magazine (Pg. 46).
Forestry Field Camp Returns to Warnell

By Ryan Reddish

This past May, forestry majors at the Warnell School did something that had not been accomplished in nearly 30 years. For the first time since the 1970s, first year professional students participated in a summer field camp.

The Maymester field camp, which spanned three weeks, focused on silviculture, forest harvesting and products, and mensuration. One week was dedicated to each subject.

In the first week, Dr. Dick Daniels taught silviculture. Dr. Daniels taught students about stand density, site index, forest cover types, and site preparation and management among many other things. The first part of the week took place in or around the Athens area, with day trips to B.F. Grant Forest and Oconee National Forest.

The highlight of the week, however, was an overnight trip to the Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, North Carolina. At the Cradle of Forestry, students toured the Pisgah National Forest and saw the first forestry professional school started by Gifford Pinchot.

“As a student, our trip to the Cradle of Forestry was an integral part of field camp because we got to observe the beginnings of our chosen profession,” said Warnell School Student Ambassador Jess McNeill.

The forest harvesting and products portion of the class was taught by Dr. Dale Greene and Dr. Laurie Schimleck. This week of camp was one big road trip, as students toured various mills and logging operations across the state.

The beginning of the week consisted of an overnight trip to Valdosta with stops along the way at the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill in Oglethorpe and the Georgia Forestry Commission nursery in Byromville. Students also toured the Langdale Company sawmill and pole plant in Valdosta, and saw a harvesting operation in some of the surrounding areas burned by this past spring’s record wildfires.

Throughout the rest of the week, students visited Plum Creek’s forestry operations in middle Georgia, the Georgia-Pacific plywood plant in Monticello, the Weyerhaeuser Trus Joist plant in Colbert, and the J.M. Huber OSB plant in Commerce. Although the week of tours and van rides was a busy one, it showed students how many timber-related products are made.

“Our week of visits to mills and logging operations was a real hit – with the students and with those who hosted us - and I wondered at times who enjoyed it the most,” reported Dr. Dale Greene. “The support we received from the forestry community was overwhelming.”

During the final week, Dr. Bruce Borders taught mensuration. Students learned how to cruise timber in all of its stages by performing cruises on a young pine seedling plantation, a pre-merchantable pine stand, and a merchantable mixed stand. Students also learned to map these stands using GPS technology with the help of Mr. Tripp Lowe. At the end of the week, students compiled all of their cruise and GPS data for each stand into three professional cruise reports.

By the end of Forestry Field Camp, students had gained invaluable, hands-on experience in the field to help better prepare them for future courses and eventual employment. Many of the field camp participants put their newly gained experience to use during summer internships that followed camp, and all participants entered the new school year more prepared for their coursework.

“Field camp was one of the best things that could have been incorporated into our major because it gives you hands-on experience in real world applications,” concluded forestry club president Dustin Evans.

Ryan Reddish is a senior forestry major from Jesup, Ga.
By Ali Gant

Recently, I was asked about Warnell’s greatest accomplishment in Fiscal Year 2007 from the perspective of the Development/Alumni Relations Office. We had a year filled with generous donors and friends, all with truly inspiring stories and reasons for contributing.

What makes me very proud is the success allowed by YOU, our Warnell supporters. Our Centennial Society is steadily growing, providing us with the challenge of finding a plaque large enough to accommodate all of your names! Anyone is still able to give $100 or more by our 101st birthday, November 27, 2007, to become a member. We’ve been stunned by the response and humbled by the gifts well over this minimum requirement.

Through this effort, alumni giving to Warnell programs grew from 9% in FY ’06 to 11% in FY ’07. In 2006, 354 of you made donations totaling some $68,000. This past year, 434 donated a total of just under $90,000. We’re grateful for your investment in the students, faculty, and programs at Warnell. We cannot wait to see how you continue to show your support in the years to come.

On this note of success in annual giving, I’m incredibly proud to “reintroduce” you to a person that many of you know very well — Bridget Harden. You might not realize that Bridget coordinated the Centennial Campaign. As a matter of fact, Bridget coordinates many of the annual programs and events for alumni, including Homecoming, Warnell Tailgates, and our Alumni Steering Committees.

Therefore, we at Warnell felt it made the most sense to name Bridget the Director of Alumni Relations. I will continue on as Director of Development, focusing on the giving aspect of Warnell. It will be an easy transition as Bridget has been performing the duties of an Alumni Director for quite some time. Please join me in congratulating a member of our team who already works so hard to keep you connected!

We look forward to another fun-filled Homecoming and year of success!
Fred Haeussler

Fred Haeussler (BSF ’54) is widely recognized amongst peers and alumni as one of the most dedicated and successful students ever to enroll in the Warnell School. A true leader of the Georgia and southeastern forest industry, Haeussler is one of only two Warnell School graduates to ever serve as president of the Society of American Foresters (SAF-1985), where he is nationally recognized as an industry leader for guiding professional foresters onto the path of sustainable management.

Haeussler was born June 4, 1932 in Cincinnati, Ohio to immigrant parents of German heritage who passed through Ellis Island in 1929. He was a track and cross country star in high school and chose to attend The University of Georgia because it gave him the opportunity to receive coaching from world-class professionals. “The track coach was Forrest “Spec” Towns who won a gold medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympics,” Haeussler explained. He eventually lettered in both sports.

As a first generation German-American, Haeussler unwittingly succumbed to his traditional heritage and chose to earn his bachelor’s degree in forestry. A stellar student in the forestry school of the time, Haeussler was a member of several honors societies and service organizations, including Xi Sigma Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Blue Key Society, AGHON, Gridiron Secret Society, Omicron Delta Kappa, Alpha Zeta, UGA Student Council and Arnold Air Society. And for the forestry school, he served as editor of the Cypress Knee, and associate editor of The Georgia Agriculturalist during his senior year. As a result of his service and commitment to excellence in athletics and education, he was selected as the “Outstanding Male Senior” on the UGA campus in 1954. Haeussler identifies his years at UGA as “four of the best years of my life.”

After graduation, Haeussler began a successful, life-long relationship with the Union Camp Corporation. This relationship began when the company agreed to financially support his MSF degree from Duke University, and continued with a thirty-seven year career managing the company’s lands. He was offered a $950 fellowship to attend graduate school at Yale’s College of Forestry instead of attending Duke University, but the $2,000 from Union Camp was too much to pass up. “I was greedy,” he said. “I took the money.”

After completing his master’s degree in 1955, Haeussler served in the U.S. Air Force as a special agent in the Office of Special Investigations. Soon thereafter, he began climbing Union Camp’s corporate ladder as a conservation forester in South Carolina, after several years as a land management forester in southeast Georgia. After that, Haeussler and his family relocated to Alabama for nine years. He concluded his career in January 1995 as land manager for the Savannah Woodlands, corporate manager of land use and forest practices, and land agent for the Savannah and Eastover Woodlands divisions of Union Camp.

During his career, Haeussler served as a member/officer for many forestry, industry and civic organizations, including a term as national president of SAF in 1985. “Fred’s contributions to forestry are legendary,” said current SAF Executive Vice-President and CEO Michael Goergen, Jr. “Both as an active forester and retiree, his ideas helped to change and improve the practice of forestry. The Society of American Foresters is lucky to have had him serve as president, and he continues to volunteer his time today.”

“I was encouraged to participate in SAF as a student by Archie Patterson, and later by B.E. “Ernie” Allen, Director of Woodlands for Union Camp,” Haeussler said. “As president, I worked to gain wider recognition of forestry and foresters, increase influence on forestry legislation and encourage young foresters to participate in SAF.”
For his contributions to Georgia’s forestry community, Haeussler was given the Georgia Forestry Association’s “Wise Owl Award,” and he was inducted into Georgia’s Forester’s Hall of Fame in 1983 (and the Alabama Forester’s Hall of Fame in 1987). His lifelong contributions to the Warnell School were recognized with awarding of the “Distinguished Alumnus Award” in 1999.

Ali Gant, Director of Development at Warnell, points to Fred as a shining example of a successful alumnus investing in the future of others. This year, Haeussler decided to move his planned gift to Warnell, The Fred W. Haeussler Undergraduate Scholarship, to an immediate gift. Gant states, “It is exciting that Fred will be able to see the impact of his generosity as soon as next year. There’s nothing better than seeing an outstanding student benefit because of a charitable alumnus, in turn seeing that alumnus feel the joy of giving back as well.”

Now that he has retired, Haeussler is willing to reveal the philosophy that allowed him to achieve success in the forest industry. “To be successful you must develop a passion for what you’re doing,” he explained. “The other important ingredient for achievement is people,” he continued. “Little is accomplished by one’s self. I’ve been fortunate to have had the help and support of many people over the years.”

While Haeussler is recognized as a remarkable Warnell School alumnus for his previous contributions and accomplishments, to this day he continues to give significant amounts of his time back to the School and community, and both are better off as a result of his leadership. Even in retirement Haeussler is dedicated to service for the United State’s forestry community, and he continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, MT.

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Wildlife Supper
2008

Hosted by the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Saturday, April 26
4:00 – 6:00 pm, Social
6:00 pm, Dinner

Tickets available at the door: Adults $8
Children under 5 FREE

Contact Steven Castleberry
scastle@warnell.uga.edu

All Alumni are welcome* and encouraged to attend this annual tradition of food and fun!

*Contact Bridget Harden
706.542.0713 or bharden@warnell.uga.edu if you are interested in getting a group of fellow alumni to attend this event.
Arthur “Winston” West (BSFR ’60) is living on a farm in South Carolina. His grandson Chase West is at UGA studying Environmental Engineering. Chase was married in March of 2007.

Charles Maynard (BSFR ’65) retired from Florida Division of Forestry in November 2005.

James Scoggins (MS ’66) is retired and living in Clermont, Florida.

David Stevenson (BSFR ’67) retired in 2000 from the Lake City-Columbia County Forestry Department.

Larry Andrews (PhD ’69) 1398 Northwood Circle Gainesville, GA 30501, is retired from the position of vice president of Administrative Services at Brenau University.

Robert “Bob” Bridges (MS ’69) is retired from the US FWS in Arkansas. He is a local minister and sells real estate. He’s enjoying life after government work and spending time with his grandchildren.

Harold Burkhart (PhD ’69) is a distinguished professor and department head of Forestry at Virginia Tech.

Peter Bischoff (BSFR ’70) retired in January 2006 from the South Carolina Forestry Commission after 36 years of service. His most recent position was state lands section chief. He is currently the owner of Bischoff’s Forestry Services, LLC.

William Mahan (BSFR ’73) has retired from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources after 33 years as a wildlife biologist. He has relocated to Western Kentucky and is employed part time by Quail Unlimited.

Paul Eason (BSFR ’74) P.O. Box 858 Claxton, GA 30417 was elected President/CEO of Tippins Bank & Trust Co. in Claxton. He also serves on the Board of Directors of GB Bank Group and the Georgia Bankers Association.

J. Scott Osborne (MS ’76) retired September 1, 2006 after working as a wildlife biologist for five years with the USFWS and 30 years with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission.

Larry Morris (BSFR ’77) is the Associate Chief of Sustainable Community Forestry Program with Georgia Forestry Commission in Athens.

Timothy Gunter (BSFR ’81) was promoted from chief operating officer to the President of Industrial Developments International, Inc (IDI) of Atlanta. IDI is one of the nation’s largest developers of industrial real estate.

Terrence “Terry” Larimer (MS ’82) 732 Woodward Rd. Charleston, SC 29407, as Natural and Cultural Resources Manager for the Charleston Naval Weapons Station accepted The Secretary of the Navy’s Environmental Award for the top Department of the Navy Natural Resources Program large installations at an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 7, 2007.

David B. Gaither and his wife Amy are excited that a second generation of the Gaither family will be joining the Warnell family. Megan Gaither began attending in Fall 2007.

Robert Smith (M.S ’91) and Kristin Smith (M.S 1994) 5011 Asa Lane Greensboro, NC 27406, announce the birth of baby girl, Annika Ingrid Smith. Annika was born June 13, 2007.

Tommy Peagler (BSFR ’93) PO Box 736 Waycross, GA 31502, teaches forestry at Okefenokee Technical College in Waycross. Also, Tommy owns Peagler Land & Timber Inc. which features three logging operations. Tommy and wife Jennifer have two boys Parker 7, and Henry 3.

Phillip Exley (BSFR ’96) is employed with Weyerhaeuser Company as a timber buyer at the Flint River pulp mill in Oglethorpe, GA. Mr. Exley has been married to his wife Sandy for 8 years and they are raising their two boys Owen and Luke.

Meredith Greene (BSFR ’02) and her husband announce the birth of their baby girl, Avery Rae Harrison, born April 26, 2007. The family is moving from Lubbock, Texas to Russellville, Arkansas.


1949
Aubrey Whitfield (BSFR ’49) 34 Hill St. Winnsboro, S.C. 29180-8696, will be 84 on October 18, 2007. Mr. Whitfield would love to hear from others.

1950
Gus Woodall (BSFR ’51) 1150 River Rd. Jesup, GA 31546 is a retired forester who still loves the outdoors. Mr. Woodall is interested in keeping contact with foresters and future foresters alike.

Fred Haeussler (BSFR ’54) 7003 Sandnettles Dr. Savannah, GA 31410 is currently serving on the board of directors of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana.

Lester O. Thompson (BSFR ’54) retired in 2002 and has sold his forestry business to Don Moore (B.S.F.R. 1996). Mr. Thompson continues to do some real estate and maintains his rental properties and his farm.


J. Neil Parker (MFR ’56) is retired from the University of Iowa, the Iowa Agricultural and Home Economics Engineering Department in 1976. He taught forest ecology in Bachelor Applied Science Tech.

Harold Burkhart (PhD ’69) is a distinguished professor and department head of Forestry at Virginia Tech.

1960
Robert Reese (BSFR ’60) is self-employed reading grants for the South Carolina Department of Education. As a retiree he and his wife travel visiting grandchildren in Texas, taking pleasure trips to Alaska, the Northwest and the Mediterranean. He enjoys gardening and volunteering as an English teacher for a local Hispanic church.

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Obituaries

Erle Newsom (BSFR ’38), 91, died July 10, 2007. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Mr. Newsom was a member of Dunwoody Baptist church and Kiwanis club for 30 years.

Col. Rellie W. Adams (BSFR ’33), 97, died February 13, 2007. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Calvary. After retirement at Fort Sam Houston, TX, he and his wife moved to Columbus. Col. Adams was a lifelong bulldog fan.

A Man for Our Times
The Legacy of Bill Oettmeier, Jr. (BSF ’60):
By: Bob Izlar

What do you say about a man who was like a father, brother, and best friend to you? In the case of Bill Oettmeier, Jr., I can find the words, but they don’t come easily. Bill’s father and mine were friends; we both grew up around our beloved Okefenokee Swamp; we both Georgia Bulldog foresters; we both loved great barbecue and hunting. There were other similarities, but Bill Oettmeier, Jr. was in many ways an incomparable person. First, he was a truly loving husband, father, and grandfather. Family was what was most important to him, and it showed. Then, he made his mark in his chosen profession and well beyond.

Unfortunately, Bill lost a very long, courageous fight to cancer March 28, 2007.

Bill Oettmeier, Jr., was born in Valdosta, Georgia, in 1938. He grew up in the company forestry town of Fargo and graduated in 1960 with a BS degree in forestry from the University of Georgia. He started his remarkable forestry career in LaGrange, Georgia, with St. Regis Paper Company in 1960. He was assistant regional manager and helped set up St. Regis’ Monticello, Mississippi, pulpmill operations in 1965. In addition, he also served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard as an Airman Second Class.

Bill’s service to forestry, his state, and community are unparalleled. He is the only person to serve as president of the Forest Landowners Association twice and as president of the Georgia Forestry Association twice. He was also president of the Georgia Division of the Society of American Foresters, helped found the Flatwoods SAF chapter, served on the Board of the Georgia Sheriff’s Boys Ranch, served on the Georgia Forestry Commission Board, served as the forestry representative on the Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for three years, and served on then Governor Barnes’ Education Reform Task Force. He was an SAF fellow, member of the Georgia Foresters’ Hall of Fame, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumnus, Past Big Jayhook of the Jayhole Club, AGHON member, and GFA Wise Owl recipient.

Bill Oettmeier was a humble man and worked in quiet ways. Most people would never know that, at his own expense, he hosted an annual Georgia Sheriff’s Boys Ranch “Boys Hunt” for severely abused boys. This is more than just a couple of hours on a deer stand. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these boys to be guided one-on-one by stars from sports, television, and music. They could be hunting with an Olympic gold medalist, All-Pro NFL lineman, original Dukes of Hazard regular, Hall of Fame baseball great, or Rolling Stones keyboardist. These men all say that it is the once in a lifetime experience for them to participate. Bill did it all and was quietly but duly honored for his humanitarian efforts.

Including his father’s service, an Oettmeier worked for Superior Pine Products Company for more than 81 years. Bill Oettmeier was one of those foresters who come along once in several generations. He made an indelible, bright mark on forestry. Bill was a modern Renaissance man: he was a first-rate forester; an excellent hunter, fisherman, and golfer; a painter; an ardent supporter of public education; a steady leader; and a master politician. His is a trail marked with glory that few will be able to follow.

We Want To Hear From You!

Stay in touch by submitting your latest news and/or address changes to the Warnell Alumni Office:
news@warnell.uga.edu
Looking for New Employment?

A comprehensive listing of Forestry and Natural Resources job opportunities can be found on the Warnell School website at: http://jobs.forestry.uga.edu