PROTECTING OUR FRESH WATER RESOURCES:
Warnell faculty help plan a strategy for tomorrow and beyond
It is fall 2006 and the semester is all but complete. Much has been accomplished in this the School’s Centennial year. This issue of The LOG features some of the highlights of recent achievements by faculty, students, staff and alumni. Warnell’s tradition of excellence continues. I will let the stories speak for themselves.

Allow me to comment on the School’s less tangible attributes; most of which are not new, but only infrequently mentioned. This School is a fun place to be – yes, we work hard as students, staff and faculty, but Warnell is a fun place. Many, if not most of our new students come to us because a student currently enrolled in the School has told them about the family atmosphere and sense of togetherness that are so much a part of Warnell. I suppose this is why our student clubs are so active and successful. Bottom-line, students matter at Warnell and that, of course, is due to faculty and staff attitude and dedication to students.

Are we perfect? – far from it. Faculty, by their very nature, are largely individual contributors with strong opinions about all aspects of higher education. Disagreements are common (and sometimes loud) among faculty, but the shared common goal to better equip students for success is always evident. What faculty member has not worked late into the night because the day was spent helping students (including the “public” if you are an extension faculty member)? - I know of none.

Then there is the staff. Always making faculty look and be more productive, and often lending a sympathetic ear or shoulder to students. The day-to-day operation of the School is a function of our excellent staff. They too are a big part of the positive and friendly atmosphere so much a part of Warnell.

As many know, I am not a long-term academic, but I do know about organizations and organizational improvement. Organizations that laugh are successful in reaching their goals. High morale and success are positively related and creativity is a product of free and open discussion. By these measures, Warnell is doing very well indeed.

Rita and I have enjoyed our time at Warnell and are very glad to have shared three years with all of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Porterfield
Forestry:
**Future hope for American Chestnut tree**
The Warnell School and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) announced on July 27th that those two organizations have reached an agreement to create an American Chestnut tree orchard at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center (GMREC) in Union County, GA. This joint project will play an important role in efforts to develop and reintroduce a blight resistant American Chestnut tree into the Appalachian Mountains. The announcement was made by Dr. Mark Stallings, Past President of the Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation; Dr. Scott Merkle, forestry professor at the Warnell School; and Joe Garner, Superintendent of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center.

Wildlife:
**Georgia Chapter of TWS annual fall meeting hosted by Warnell wildlife program**
Drs. Sara Schweitzer (Board Member) and Joe Meyers (Secretary/Treasurer) in the Warnell School’s wildlife program organized and hosted the annual fall meeting of The Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society from August 31st to September 1st at Flinchum’s Phoenix in Whitehall Forest. The meeting focused on “The Future of Natural Resources Management” with presentations from professors Gary Green (Change and Trends in America: Implications for public land managers), Bob Izlar (The Changing Forestry Landscape), as well as presentations from staff members of Ga. DNR WRD. The day two session featured posters and presentations from a number of Warnell School wildlife students.

Study Abroad: Bulgaria
The Warnell School is proud to present the newest addition to its diverse array of study abroad programs: the Bulgaria Study Abroad Program and Service Learning Experience. The Bulgaria program opens an exciting new door for Warnell students and faculty to collaborate with Eastern Europe in natural resources management and conservation and to learn about a rapidly changing part of the world—but that’s not all. The Bulgaria program is open to alumni! This 3-week long course in June will introduce participants to Bulgaria’s unique culture, history and landscape, while focusing on the preservation of the country’s breathtaking natural and cultural resources. During the program, participants will travel from historic Sofia University in the country’s capital to the small mountain village of Apriltsi, adjacent to Central Balkan National Park, where they will complete a service-learning project within the community, before finishing the course on the shores of the Black Sea.

The Bulgaria program is directed by Dr. Sara Schweitzer, this year’s Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Teaching winner. Dr. Schweitzer has worked extensively in Bulgaria, earning a faculty Fulbright scholarship, through which she taught at Sofia University and secured an MOU with UGA in 2003, and a UGA International Development Education Awards grant to begin the implementation of this life-enriching program.

Please consider participating in this phenomenal experience to share your career insights with the students and Bulgarian people, while simultaneously enhancing your own education. If you are interested in this exciting addition to the Warnell program but cannot join us this year, please consider making a contribution to the Bulgaria Program to help maintain the Warnell School’s high standard of educational excellence. For more information, please visit the website at www.uga.edu/bulgaria, or contact Dr. Schweitzer directly at 706.542.1150 or email: bulgaria@warnell.uga.edu.
Fisheries & Aquaculture:
Koi lovers learn to super-size their aquarium
Dr. Jay Shelton, associate professor of fisheries, hosted a Koi Breeding and Reproduction seminar for the general public, professionals and aficionados from June 9-11 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, with field experience provided at Flinchum’s in Whitehall Forest. This class, available for Continuing Education credits, was co-sponsored by the Warnell School and UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Water & Soils:
Is bio-char an effective soil amendment to improve crop yields and moisture retention?
Dr. Larry Morris, along with graduate student Adam Speir, recently completed the first part of a study on the effects of charcoal from agricultural and forestry feedstocks on corn biomass, grain yield, and soil moisture retention in Tifton, GA. After one corn growing season (April-August) in 2006, Speir and Morris determined that soil moisture at 15 centimeters was slightly higher in plots with applied char relative to plots without char amendments. Further studies will include greenhouse experiments with loblolly pine, as well as field studies of char applications in pine tree plantations.

Natural Resources Recreation and Tourism:
Report details possible improvements to Tennessee Valley Authority recreation
The mountains, lakes, rivers and streams in the 125-counties of the Tennessee Valley are a haven for diverse forms of outdoor recreation, and a new study conducted by Dr. Gary Green, assistant professor of outdoor recreation, and his graduate student Heather Fleming aims to make these lands even more accessible to the public. The report, commissioned by the TVA, recommended that the agency build more nature trails, picnic areas, campsites and nature-viewing opportunities in its parks and natural areas while also focusing on the region’s growing African-American and Hispanic populations. TVA recreation manager Jerry Fouse called the study, “one of the most exhaustive analyses of outdoor recreation ever prepared for the 125-counties of the Tennessee Valley.” - by Sam Fahmy

Outreach:
Warnell School fills the void in support of Boy Scouts
Over 200 Boy Scouts from Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina earned merit badges in a multitude of subject areas at the 2006 Boy Scout Advanc-A-Rama (Cherokee District, Northeast Georgia Council,) hosted by the Warnell School on Saturday, September 30th. For the past 20 years, this twice a year event has been hosted by the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens. However, after the Supply Corps School facilities were placed on the base closure list in the spring of 2006, members of the faculty and administration stepped forward and offered the Warnell School’s facilities, faculty, staff and student expertise to ensure the continued success of this growing event.

Student Clubs:
Students win SAF Quiz Bowl
The UGA Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) won first place in the Southeastern Section SAF student chapter quiz bowl competition that took place during the Southeastern Section SAF meeting in September at Auburn University. The UGA SAF quiz bowl team is composed of chapter chairman and Warnell graduate student Jerry Mahon and undergraduate forestry seniors James Kent and Stephen Purvis. They beat student chapter teams from the University of Florida, Alabama A&M, and Auburn University.
The sturgeon and the mussels want more of it, but the cotton farmers can’t get enough, while metro Atlanta would likely use it all, if it were permitted.
Warnell Faculty’s Role in Preparing for Georgia’s Present and Future Needs

By Eugene MacIntyre

The fresh water trickling off the Blue Ridge front in north Georgia may be the most sought after natural resource in the southeastern United States at this point in time. Once it reaches Helen, Ga., it is no more than a good size creek, but to every person and aquatic creature downstream this water carries the value of gold.

Add the Flint and Apalachicola River basins to the Chattahoochee, and you find the water that supports most of Atlanta’s growth (as well as other downstream cities), the agriculture of southwest Georgia and southeastern Alabama, and the mussels and fish that call it home. That is a lot of competition for this increasingly scarce resource.

And more and more frequently, state and federal officials are turning to the Warnell School’s fisheries and water experts to provide the technical information necessary to make responsible decisions on how to permit the use of waters from the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Rivers, and all the other rivers that flow through Georgia.

The Fisheries Needs

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over-drained Lake Lanier this past spring, they claimed one reason was because additional water was needed to maintain adequate stream-flows for Gulf Sturgeon in the Apalachicola River downstream. To verify this need for additional Chattahoochee River water, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EDP) called Dr. Doug Peterson, fisheries professor at the Warnell School and one of the nation’s top experts on North American sturgeon.

After reviewing the data used by Corps officials, Dr. Peterson determined that the existing data did not support the demand for increased water releases from Georgia reservoirs.

“Random increases in dam flow rates could do more harm than good to downstream sturgeon habitat,” he says. “There is not enough reliable data available to support making dramatic changes in release flows as related to the needs of Gulf Sturgeon.”

It now appears, as a result of Dr. Peterson’s determinations, that Corps officials have removed most of the newly proposed requirements for additional water releases from Georgia reservoirs from the permitting negotiations.

Dr. Cecil Jennings, Unit Leader for the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit and adjunct faculty at the Warnell School, agrees that such important decisions need to be based on hard science. However, he, like Dr. Peterson, recognizes that “policy decisions concern more than just biology and hydrology.”

Dr. Jennings is an expert on release flows below dams on the Oconee River and how it influences the life-cycles of the Robust Redhorse. He also serves as an advisor to several power companies, and state/federal resource agencies concerning dam release flow-rates.

“Only in recent times, with increasing demand, has water quantity become a concern,” he says. “Previously, water quality was the primary issue.”

Dr. Cecil Jennings in front of the Warnell School’s Classic Building.
“the lack of a comprehensive water permitting process in Georgia has inevitably resulted in questions regarding the appropriate volume of consumption”

The Human Needs
On the human side of the fresh water resources debate, Drs. Todd Rasmussen and Rhett Jackson, associate professors of forest hydrology, are both in high demand from state and federal regulators to provide their expert opinions.

Dr. Rasmussen’s primary role in the debate has been to “foster communication and dialogue” through his role as an organizer of the 2007 Georgia Water Resources Conference, which will be held in Athens, Ga. on March 27-29, 2007. He is joined on the conference steering committee by Carol Couch, Director of the Georgia EPD; Mark Landers, U.S. Geological Survey; Jimmy Bramblett, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Aris Georgakakos, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Rasmussen says, “I also provide informal advice to multiple stakeholders and have used this situation as a case study in many of my classes.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Jackson has been working with Ga. EPD, DNR, the Nature Conservancy, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers on a variety of water management issues across Georgia. This includes work with Dr. Jim Peterson, assistant adjunct professor and Assistant Unit Leader of the Georgia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, conducting research funded by DNR to evaluate how fish assemblages respond to drought conditions in the lower Flint River basin.

Dr. Jackson has also served on two separate statewide advisory committees that provided guidance to EPD in evaluating requests for variances from state stream buffer rules, served on stormwater and water quality advisory committees for Athens-Clarke County and the

Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority, and assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service in evaluating proposals for new water supply reservoirs and in developing a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Etowah River.

Both of these water experts admit that the lack of a comprehensive water permitting process in Georgia has inevitably resulted in questions regarding the appropriate volume of consumption. They believe a better understanding of the fresh water needs of the state, and the surrounding region, can allow for “improved stormwater management, waste load allocation, evaluation of the basin-wide hydrologic effects of pumping the Floridan aquifer for irrigation, analysis of economic ramifications of water policy decisions, establishment of nutrient standards, and in setting ecological flow regimes for dam releases.”

So, the next time you hear a news story about the legal wrangling between Georgia, her neighboring states and federal resource agencies concerning the adequate usage permitting of our fresh water resources, you can feel a sense of comfort that Warnell School experts are working hard, behind the scene, to ensure the needs and rights of Georgia’s residents and wildlife/aquatic resources are being defended.
Dr. Doug Peterson is an assistant professor in the fisheries and aquaculture program at the Warnell School. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State University in 1996 and participated in a post-doctoral research program at Cornell University until 1998. His area of research concentration is the ecology and population dynamics of exploited fishes, with particular emphasis on North American sturgeon species. The primary focus of his research program at the Warnell School is on understanding how the life history and population dynamics of exploited fishes are affected by human influences such as harvest and habitat alteration.

What are the four sturgeon species native to Georgia? What is their present listing status?

- Lake Sturgeon (non-anadromous) – “The lake sturgeon has just been re-introduced into the Coosa River system in NW Georgia by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) Wildlife Resources Division. I have received a grant from GA DNR to make a five-year assessment of the reintroduced population to determine how well the reintroduction program is working. Unfortunately, we really won’t know for sure until we can determine if the fish are successfully reproducing, which won’t occur for at least another 10 years or so.

- Atlantic sturgeon – “Federally listed as a species of Special Concern.”

- Shortnose sturgeon – “Federally Listed as Endangered.”

- Gulf sturgeon (sub-species of Atlantic Sturgeon) – “The Georgia segment of the ACF (Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers) population was extirpated by the construction of the Woodruff Dam in 1959.”
“Our role is to provide good, objective science without regard to political objectives, and to educate young scientists about scientific methods as well as the biological, ecological, and human dimensions of resource management.”

How do you rate their chances of reaching sustainable natural regeneration? What is their greatest threat?
- “The jury is still out on lake sturgeon. GA DNR has been stocking for five years, and although we have documented some successful recruitment from each stocked year class, the ultimate success of the program will depend on the ability of these fish to establish a self-sustaining population.”

- “The Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons have a bright outlook. Especially if quality habitat conditions remain in the Altamaha River. Our research has shown that the Altamaha harbors one of the largest populations of Atlantic sturgeon in the world, and the largest population of shortnose sturgeon south of the Delaware River with an estimation abundance of about 6,000 fish”

- “Gulf Sturgeon populations are slowly, but steadily, improving in many areas along the Gulf Coast, including in the Apalachicola River. The population would probably benefit, however, from a carefully implemented stocking program and fish passage to restore access to spawning habitats above the Woodruff Dam in the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. If the dam could be retrofitted with a specialized sturgeon fish-ladder, wild fish would be able move upstream into Georgia and help restore the population with a minimum of human intervention.”

How do you view the role of a fisheries biologist as the competition for fresh water resources grows?
- “Our role is to provide good, objective science without regard to political objectives, and to educate young scientists about scientific methods as well as the biological, ecological, and human dimensions of resource management.”

New field methods for rapid sex determination of wild sturgeon are developed and tested at the UGA Cohutta Fisheries Center.

Can there be a productive resolution and permitting of our fresh water to provide for the needs of all the competing users (Human, Flora & Fauna)?
- “I do not know the answer to that- I guess only time will tell. As a society, we must learn to balance competing human needs including those for healthy, sustainable fisheries, which are a product of healthy ecosystems.”

What role has the state asked you to play in developing solutions to the present water allocation disagreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers?
- “The State asked me to evaluate existing data and on-going scientific studies of Gulf sturgeon habitat requirements in the Apalachicola River, and to evaluate proposed changes in the water management to determine if those changes are reasonable based on my analysis of the science.”

What is the general message you teach students about the competition for scarce fresh water resources?
- The general message is that our freshwater resources will become increasingly scarce. Allocation issues will become more contentious, hence the growing need for broadly educated fisheries managers who understand the biological, ecological and sociological interactions that define our fisheries.”

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Bruce Beck, professor and GRA Eminent Scholar, has recently been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project on “Grand Challenges of the Future for Environmental Modeling.” The project has been funded in association with the Foundation’s four major Environmental Observatory initiatives in Hydrological Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Ecology, and Ocean Sciences. The purpose of this project is to produce a White Paper for NSF on possible future areas of research to be funded on the subject of modeling.

Pete Bettinger, associate professor of landscape planning and harvest scheduling, chaired the 5th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems (GIS) conference.

Bruce Borders, professor of biometrics and mensuration, and Dehai Zhao, research professional, have co-authored an article with Machelle Wilson and Stephen L. Rathbun titled, “Modeling neighborhood effects on the growth and survival of individual trees in a natural temperate species-rich forest,” published in Ecological Modelling.

Kim D. Coder, professor of community forestry and tree health care, presented the keynote address at the state of Florida’s joint Urban Forest Council and International Society of Arboriculture Chapter state conference and trade show in Ft. Myers. Dr. Coder lectured on the impacts of storms on trees and associated tree health care implications. In addition, Dr. Coder was a principle instructor for a special daylong workshop at this conference on hurricane issues and community forestry management.

Gary Green, assistant professor of outdoor recreation, received a grant for $31,600 from the American Canoeing Association to examine paddlesport education and safety awareness. The growth of boating activities has also led to a growth in the number of water-related accidents and fatalities. This project seeks to examine how people learn about water safety procedures, and more importantly how the transference of safety information can be improved to help reduce the number of accidents each year.

Gary Grossman, distinguished research professor of animal ecology, was on the scientific committee of The Ecology of Stream Fish: state of the art and future prospect 2 conference held in Leon, Spain (June 12-16, 2006). He also presented a paper, “Drought and biodiversity in a southern Appalachian stream, or why are there more fishes downstream,” at the conference. Meanwhile, his article “Population Dynamics of Mottled Sculpin (Pisces) in a Variable Environment: Information Theoretic Approaches” was published in Ecological Monographs, the most prestigious of the ecological journals.

Michael J. Conroy, adjunct professor also with the Georgia Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Unit, along with Dr. Michael R. Vaughan (Virginia Unit), was awarded the Cooperative Research Unit Leadership Excellence award for contributions to scientific excellence and exceptional work on Florida panther conservation. As members of a Scientific Review Team for the Florida panther, Conroy and Vaughan produced a detailed and carefully crafted review of the strengths and weaknesses in the body of panther science. This work appeared in two peer reviewed articles in the January 2006 issue of The Journal of Wildlife Management.

Bill Hubbard, Southern Regional Extension Forester, had his article “Analyze the Potential of Your Tree Farm,” featured in the May/June 2006 edition of Tree Farmer Magazine.

Ben Jackson, professor of timber harvesting, Larry Morris, professor of forest soils, and Bill Hubbard had articles published in the Proceedings for the 14th European Biomass Conference and Exposition.

Rhett Jackson & Todd Rasmussen, assistant professors of forest hydrology, penned an op-ed in the June 29 Atlanta Journal-Constitution responding to legal issues concerning reservoir water release requirements saying “a water-allocation plan for Lake Lanier, borne under court order, may temporarily resolve the current dispute, yet it may not provide the long-term environmental and economic protection.”

Brooks Mendell, visiting assistant professor of forest finance, resigned his position at the Warnell School on June 30th to assume full-time responsibilities for managing Forisk Consulting of Augusta, GA, a forest business and timber market research and education firm. He was also invited by USAID and El Programa Colombia Forestal (Colombia’s National Forestry Program) to host a seminar on forest plantations and international forestry investments.

David Moorhead, professor of silviculture, was an invited speaker at the South Carolina Division Summer meeting of the Appalachian Society of American Foresters in Rock Hill, SC, from June 7-9. The meeting theme was “Impact of invasive species on forest productivity” and his talk was on “Silvicultural practices & invasive exotic plants: How silvicultural practices can promote, limit or control invasive, exotic pest plant problems.”

Jacek Siry, Tom Harris, Bob Izlar, Dale Greene, Tommy Tye, Amanda Hamsley, Wes Shiver, Ken Eason, and Carol Hyldahl have published, “Status and Future Sustainability of the US Wood Supply System”; Center for Forest Business Research Note #17. This report, funded by the Wood Supply Research Institute, examined the available published market and scientific data to collect information that describes the competitive position of the US South and other competing regions.

Bob Teskey, distinguished research professor of forest ecology, and Bob Izlar, Director of the Center for Forest Business, were both featured in the May 2006 edition of Georgia Trend magazine focusing on the future of forestry in Georgia.

Michael Yabsley, professor of wildlife disease, had his two-year statewide study of tick-borne diseases featured in the Athens Banner-Herald.
When considering the contributions needed to further the goal of successful natural resource management, recreation might not be the first field that comes to mind. But among the trees, on the water and over the roads millions of individuals are hiking, fishing, boating, camping, hunting and simply walking for pleasure.

In the U.S., population growth, urban sprawl, land fragmentation, and sweeping economic and socio-demographic change are but a few of the issues influencing natural resource recreation management and planning. For Dr. Gary T. Green, an assistant professor in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and Research Director of the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, the task is to help land managers, users, and students better understand and respond to these issues.

Due, in part, to the nature and scope of outdoor recreational activities and settings, opportunities for professional collaboration come from a wide variety of agencies and affiliations. For example, Dr. Green is involved in a joint USFS/UGA project to estimate visitor use levels on the Appalachian Trail (AT). This first of its kind study will provide for the National Park Service the first science based calculation of trail users in the history of the AT.

In response to concerns regarding the rapid growth of paddlesports, research for the American Canoe Association is helping to identify gaps in safety education, instruction and information delivery to recreational water-based participants. The objective of this research is to help minimize personal injury and loss of life to paddle sports participants.

With the assistance of graduate student Heather Fleming, the needs of guests to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) recreation areas were recently analyzed in order to better understand area visitors. This project provided what TVA manager Jerry Fouse called “the most exhaustive analysis of outdoor recreation ever prepared for the 125-counties of TVA.” Graduate student Lincoln Larson is working with the State Botanical Garden of Georgia to design an outreach program for educating minority children about our natural resources.

Dr. Green is also providing guidance to Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources towards development of the federally mandated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In a separate study, sponsored by UGA, Hispanic preferences and attitudes towards park programs, services, and recreation activities are being examined.

From the Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism program within the Warnell School, Dr. Green is continuing the tradition of training students to become successful natural resource managers, and is working closely with those agency and land managers responsible for responding to the needs of a growing and diverse population.

Alumni Scholarships, Large and Small, Provide Lasting Support For Students

By Emily Saunders

Each year at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Annual Spring Awards Banquet, the Earl Jenkins/Gladys Beach Memorial Award is granted to a student majoring in the natural resources field who also excels in art, literature or technology. In 2006, Ami Flowers was selected from a group of very talented Warnell School students to receive the $350 award. Although Ami just entered the professional school in the fall of 2006, she has already made her mark as the first female president of the Forestry Club and a Warnell School Student Ambassador. Her passion for photography and pen and ink drawings has also led to several awards, including 3rd place in the 2006 Georgia State Botanical Garden Art Competition. Her pen & ink called Drei Bäume (German: Three Trees) was featured in the Spring 2006 Log and in the Warnell School’s 2005 annual report.
Warnell School Recognizes Outstanding Students and Professors at the 75th Annual Spring Awards Banquet

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources recognized and rewarded its many outstanding students, student-teachers, and professors at the 75th Annual Spring Awards Banquet held Thursday, April 20th at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens, GA.

“We look forward to this opportunity each year to recognize the efforts and achievements of those students and professors who make the Warnell School one of the most respected forestry and natural resource schools in the nation,” Dean Richard Porterfield said.

In addition, the Spring Awards Banquet allows the students and faculty to thank the School’s alumni, friends and industry leaders who provide the financial support for many of the scholarships and awards presented at the banquet.

Roughly $30,000 in awards and scholarships were provided to those students recognized at the Spring Awards Banquet, thanks to the generosity of the Warnell School’s family and friends.

“With the amount I was awarded, I have bought supplies for the school year, which has included a compass for Field Orientation and Measurements, and books for my other classes,” Flowers explains. “The remaining amount I am saving to help pay for a Maymester Study Abroad Trip to South Africa.”

“I am grateful to have received the Earl Jenkins/Gladys Beach Memorial Award for its financial help to my education. This award is a great reminder of how Warnell Alumni continue to give long after they have graduated and passed on from this world. I am thankful to be a part of the Warnell Family.”

Scholarships

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<td>Ben Meadows</td>
<td>Paula Whiting</td>
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<td>Norris</td>
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<td>William Tyler Ray</td>
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<td>Cheatum</td>
<td>Brant C. Faircloth</td>
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Awards

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<td>Adam Speir, Daniel VanDijk, Brant Faircloth</td>
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<td>Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges</td>
<td>Adam Speir, Amanda Hamsley, Jason Carey</td>
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<td>Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges - graduate</td>
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<td>Forestry Faculty Award</td>
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<td>Outstanding Senior in Wildlife</td>
<td>Lindsey Kirkman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outstanding Professor in Forest Resources</td>
<td>Gary Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Presented at Honors Day</td>
<td>Andrew Taylor, Kendra Huffine, Laura Saumweber, Bynum Boley, Kerry Holcomb, Sara Johnson, David Mallard, Anne Miller, Matthew Miller, Adam Speir, Evan Sussenbach, Daniel Van Dijk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professors Presented at Honors Day</td>
<td>Todd Rasmussen, Pete Bettinger</td>
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<td>Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Teaching</td>
<td>Sara Schweitzer</td>
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<td>Xi Sigma Pi Outstanding Advisor</td>
<td>Bob Izlar</td>
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<td>Herrick Superior Teaching Award</td>
<td>Pete Bettinger</td>
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<td>AGHON</td>
<td>David Mallard, Jess McNeill, Dustin Dunn</td>
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<td>Rotary’s Top 12 Award</td>
<td>Bynum Boley</td>
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Renee Carleton, wildlife graduate student, was awarded an H. Branch Howe Research Grant of $1,835 by the Georgia Ornithological Society. The Howe grant is an annual research grant for graduate students studying avian biology.

Gino J. D’Angelo and Brad F. Miller, wildlife graduate students, presented research findings at the 6th International Deer Biology Congress in Prague, Czech Republic in August. D’Angelo’s presentation “Do wildlife warning reflectors alter white-tailed deer behavior along roadways?” and Miller’s presentation “A test of localized management in a white-tailed deer herd” were two of only six U.S. presentations out of 200.

Marco Galang, Aaron Joslin, Brittany Lancaster, and Matt Owens, all graduate students, played an important role in mentoring 4H high school Envirothon students for a formal US Forest Service presentation at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in July. The purpose of the event was to promote the airing of The Greatest Good.

Amanda Hamsley, forestry graduate student, presented her paper “Improving timber trucking performance by reducing variability of log truck weights” at the 29th Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) conference in Coeur d’Alene, ID in August.

Amanda Hamsley, Wes Shiver, Ken Eason, and Carol Hyldahl are co-writers of “Status and Future Sustainability of the US Wood Supply System”; Center for Forest Business Research Note #17, along with Dale Greene, Jacek Siry, Tom Harris, Bob Izlar, and Tommy Tye. This report, funded by the Wood Supply Research Institute, examined the available published market and scientific data to collect the information that described the competitive position of the US South and some potential competing regions.


Natalie Hyslop, wildlife graduate student, was awarded Honorable Mention in the conservation category for the Henri Seibert Competition at the 2006 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in New Orleans, for her presentation “Home range, movements, and survival of the threatened Eastern Indigo Snake (Drymarchon couperi) in southeastern Georgia.”

Hugh Lentile, graduate student, was selected as a Student Government Association (SGA) Graduate School Senator. Lentile represents all UGA graduate students at SGA, as well as the interest of Warnell School graduate students.

James Martin and Adam Butler, wildlife graduate students, gave a presentation on their research “South Florida Quail Project: Integrating Research, Monitoring, and Management,” at The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Anchorage, AK in September.

Matt Owens, NRRT graduate student, presented “A Management Tool for Assessing Outdoor Recreation Participation & Trends Relating to Public Lands: Using the Chattahoochee National Forest as an Example” at the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) conference in Nashville, TN.

Jan Forrest and Ami Flowers, forestry students, administered the first ever cross-cut saw competition at the FFA North Region Rally in September. Over 30 FFA teams were given safety lessons, watched demonstrations and then competed in the competition. Jan and Ami were able to saw through the freshly cut pine tree with its bark still on it in 12 seconds. The winning FFA team was able to finish in 42 seconds. The cross-cut competition was such a huge hit FFA has added it permanently to the North Region Rally competitions and are looking for more Forestry and Natural Resources competitions for next year.
Allyson Read, forestry graduate student, presented her thesis “Experimental Restoration of Wiregrass Communities” as a poster presentation at The Wildlife Society State Chapter meeting, The Wildlife Society’s 13th Annual Conference in September, and the 2006 UGA Academy of the Environment Symposium in October; and as a power point presentation at the BASF Corporation Landowners Field Day in September, and the 5th Eastern Native Grass Symposium in October.

Jason Scott, wildlife graduate student, received 2nd place in the Management section for student presenters at the 26th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium in Crete, Greece, for his presentation “Loggerheads & Shrimp Trawlers: New Management Ideas for an Old Problem.” This symposium is an international affair representing over 60 different countries.

Adam Speir, soils graduate student, Amanda Newman, forestry graduate student, and Jonathan Lee, pre-professional student, provided a presentation about careers in forestry and the importance of a college education to a group of campers (ages 12-14) at the Society of American Foresters Camp in Covington, GA in June.

Michael Westbrook, forestry graduate student, presented his paper “Harvesting Forest Biomass by Adding a Small Chipper to a Ground-Based Tree-Length Southern Pine Operation” at the 29th annual Council of Forest Engineers conference held in Coeur d’Alene, ID.

The Warnell School’s ‘06-’07 Student Ambassadors Are:

* Indicates returning ambassadors from the ’05-’06 school year.
In only my fourth month at the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources as Director of Development & Alumni Relations, I already feel like a part of the family. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms, and I look forward to meeting many more of you as I travel across Georgia and beyond.

As some of you know, I moved to Warnell from the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at the Terry College of Business, where I served as a Major Gift Officer. Prior to my tenure at Terry, I was involved in nonprofit fundraising and volunteer management. I received my BA in English from UGA, where I also met my husband, Chris, who is a student at the UGA School of Law. I am excited to serve you, our valued constituents, as you volunteer, reconnect, and give back to Warnell.

As I watched Warnell alumni, donors, and friends greet each other with laughter, hugs, and even tears at our Centennial Year Celebration at Homecoming this year, I began to think about acorns. No, not actual acorns, but rather the investments in Warnell our forefathers made yet never lived to see. Names like Peabody, Herty, Hargreaves—the list goes on and on, and each name evokes feelings of pride and gratitude for what we’ve been given here at Warnell.

Have you planted your acorn? Last year, only 9 percent of Warnell alumni donated to our giving programs. However, the demands for our reach and impact are growing. With state funds decreasing and our level of students and faculty on the rise, it is our hope that important alumni and friends like you will consider us in your annual giving, planned giving, and/or major giving.

We in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at Warnell are committed to helping you fund programs that inspire, honor those who have come before, and plan for those who will follow.”

Our team includes Bridget Harden, Alumni Relations Coordinator, and our new Administrative Assistant, Aimee Roberts. With nearly 5,000 living Warnell alumni, it’s impossible to visit each of you personally, but we hope that The Log will remind you how much Warnell contributed to your success and inspire you to show your support.

One hundred years ago this November, acorns were planted by those who cared deeply about the future of our school. Even small acorns can turn into the grandest of trees so that others may enjoy their shade.

Ali Gant is the Director of Development & Alumni Relations. Contact Ali at agant@warnell.uga.edu or 706.542.1011.
William Herbert “Billy” Stimpson (BSF ’41), recipient of the Warnell School’s 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award, appears to be the quintessential 20th century forester. Tough and gritty, he grew-up in lower Alabama learning the timber business from his “daddy,” Fred, Jr., who struggled to make a living for his family during the “depression” era by trading forest land and saw-milling timber.

Billy spent his summers running a compass for a local timber estimator, and then the Southern Pine and Hardwood Lumber Company, beginning at age 13. By the time he was ready to head off for college, Billy had become an expert at cruising timber. “I got more out of that than anything else,” he claims.

Their were no forestry schools in Alabama at that time, and the one at the University of Georgia was widely considered the best in the Southeast, so he chose to attain his formal education in Athens. It was during this period of his life that Billy learned two essential skills that would become the foundation for his future success.

First he learned “appreciation for the free enterprise system and private property rights as a philosophy,” he explains. “Georgia, more so than any other forestry school taught you how to make a buck.”

In addition, Billy learned to recognize the talent and skills of others, a requirement for successful business leaders in the timber industry.

This ability to recognize talent became apparent during his four years of service in the U.S. Army. Billy was captain of the ROTC Cavalry Unit at UGA during his senior year, and in 1942 was stationed at the Cavalry Replacement Training Center in Fort Riley, Kansas. His first assignment after Basic Officer School was as a second lieutenant with a cavalry troop composed mainly of black soldiers.

“There were some very talented soldiers in my platoon, but one stood out above all the others,” Stimpson said. “One night I sent the troops out on a complex four-mile compass course, and he was the only one that found his way back to camp in the right manner.”

Billy was so impressed with this young black soldier that the company commander and he recommended acceptance to Officer Training School. That young black soldier was Jackie Robinson, who became Major League Baseball’s first black player just five-years later.

If he did not have a guaranteed forester job waiting for him back home, Billy might have made a career of the army, but home was where the heart lay, and the southeastern timber industry is better-off because of it.

“Daddy loved the timber and lumber business,” explained his son Fred, III. “He especially loved the people and the personalities.”
In 1945 Billy was honorably discharged from the Army and began his executive career as vice-president of logging for the Stimrad Lumber Company. In 1952, his father’s long-time business associate, Ben May, asked Billy and his brothers to buy Gulf Lumber Company. They refused, but did agree to run the company, splitting profits 50/50. When Mr. May passed away in 1973, Billy and his brothers had accumulated enough wealth to purchase Gulf Lumber from their partner’s estate. Billy served as CEO until he finally retired in 1992.

While Gulf Lumber successfully profited in the Southeast timber industry over these years, Billy became very active in industry leadership positions, serving as an advisory board member for the Alabama Department of Conservation (1960-70), President of the Alabama Forestry Association (1967), President of the Southern Forest Products Association (1977), Chairman of Governmental Affairs for the National Forest Products Association (1981), and finally a term as President of the National Forest Products Association (1982).

As his good friend, and fellow Warnell School Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Fred Gragg, says, “Billy was an outstanding businessman and a forward looking forester.” Gragg continued to explain, “He was very active with legislation, especially modernizing inheritance tax laws.”

As a result of his leadership in professional organizations, Billy was awarded the Governor’s Conservation Award by the Alabama Wildlife Federation (1964), elected to the Alabama Foresters Hall of Fame (1984), received the North American Wholesale Lumber Association’s “John J. Mulrooney Memorial Award” for exemplary service to the industry (1996), and most recently received the Kaul Statesman Award from the Alabama Forestry Association (2000).

Married to his beautiful wife, Margaret, since 1948, they have four children, two of whom bought the Gulf Lumber Company, along with a nephew and family friend, when Billy retired, along with his two brothers, Ben and Gordon, in 1992.

Gassett Named Outstanding Young Alum

Jonathan W. Gassett (M.S. ‘95, Ph.D. ‘99), Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, was recognized as the 2006 Outstanding Young Alumnus by the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association at the annual homecoming celebration this past October. This award recognizes alumni who have graduated from the Warnell School within the past ten years and provided significant contributions to the School, University, and the forestry and natural resources profession.

After a few academic turns to begin his college career, Gassett finally settled into the wildlife program at the Warnell School where he studied scent communication of white-tailed deer and ultimately completed his Ph.D. After graduation, Gassett went to work for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to run the state’s white-tailed deer program and oversee the fledgling elk restoration project. He soon rose in the ranks and became head of the wildlife division in 2001. While serving as wildlife director, he accelerated Kentucky’s elk restoration program, spearheaded efforts to prevent a fatal deer and elk disease from coming into the state, and helped increase federal funding for wildlife habitat programs by millions of dollars.

Gassett was selected as interim Commissioner in the spring of 2005 and given the full title of Commissioner in June. He is the first Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to hold a Doctoral Degree.

“It is certainly our honor, and pleasure to recognize Jon Gassett with the Outstanding Young Alumnus award in the Warnell School’s Centennial year,” stated Dean Porterfield. “His rapid rise up the professional ladder is a testament to the leadership skills Jon has developed both as a Warnell School student and as a young professional practicing the conservation ethic.”
HOMECOMING
2006 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

MORE PHOTOS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ WWW.WARNELL.UGA.EDU/H/ALUMNI/PHOTOS
1940s
Victor T. Chastain (BSF 1948)
2638 Table Rock Rd., Pickens, SC 29671 is retired from Westvaco Corp. and living in the mountains of S.C. managing investments with his wife “Kitty”.

1950s
William C. Sullivan (BSF 1950) is enjoying life in retirement.

1970s
Chris Barneycastle (BSFR 1976) Barneycastle Forestry Services, Inc., 1962 Colony Oaks Dr., Snellville, GA 30078 is presently serving as President of the Georgia Arborist Association.

1990s
Dr. Lisa Muller (PhD 1996) has been elected unanimously by the Executive Board of the SE Section of TWS, to be the new Assistant Editor of the Proc. of the Annual Conf. of SEAFWA.

2000s

John Cullen Wood (BSFR 2003) of Milledgeville, GA married Carla Jo Moore on August 19, 2006. John is presently working as a procurement forester for Piedmont Pulp, Inc. in Laurens, SC.

Ashley Rae Sexton (MSF 2005) of Columbus, GA married Jack Gwaltney Turner on October 21, 2006.


Patricia Erin Ervin (BSFR 2004) married Dylan Bishop Belt on September 2, 2006. Patricia is presently working as an Environmental Specialist with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division out of Albany, GA.

Brian Christopher Bland (BSF 2000) married Allison Ree McKenna on November 25, 2006. She is presently employed by Severn Trent Laboratories in Savannah, GA.

Jordona Kirby (MSF 2005) has been selected as one of ten early-career professionals to participate in the inaugural class of The Wildlife Society’s (TWS) Leadership Institute.

Class Notes
Tommy Sasser (BSF ’70) was appointed Vice President of Development for Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee effective September 15, 2006. For the past seven years Sasser has served as VP of Business Development for Weitz Golf International, establishing the company as one of the nation’s leading golf construction companies. Sasser also held several positions with Jack Nicklaus’ golf course and development companies, including VP of Development and President of the golf course construction company. He is immediate past president of the Golf Course Builders Association, a member of Urban Land Institutes Recreational Development Council, the Society of American Foresters, and a member of the Executive Committee of the University of Georgia Alumni Association.
Obituaries

John Wade Clarke (BSF 1939)
March 14, 2006
passed away at the age of 90 in Macon. John was a retired Forester from the Georgia Forestry Commission where he began working in 1957. He is survived by his daughter Dorothy Clarke Merchant.

John Tillman Daniell, Jr. (BSF 1952)
April 18, 2006
passed away in Savannah at the age of 79. John was retired after a 25 year career as an Epidemiologist with the Georgia Department of Human Resources. He served in the US Marine Corps in WWII and the US Army in the Korean conflict, leaving the service after 8 years with the rank of Captain. He is survived by his wife of 36 years Virginia Tully Daniell.

Dr. William Edwin Lisenby (BSF 1950)
March 22, 2006
passed away in Macon at the age of 77. William practiced Orthodontics for forty years in Macon, GA. He was a life member of Georgia Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and the American Association of Orthodontists. He was also known for his love of the outdoors and his work with the National Bluebird Society. He is survived by his wife of 53 years Marilyn Thigpen Lisenby and their children Dr. William Clay Lisenby, Nancy Lisenby Jenkins and Blake Edwin Lisenby.

John Edward Hendrix, Jr. (BSF 1971)
May 6, 2006
passed away at his home in St. George, SC at the age of 62. John worked as a sawmill manager for Thompson Wood Products, Georgia Pacific, ITT, and Coastal Lumber Company. His love of cooking led him to found Sawmill Custom Cookin’. He is survived by his wife Vivian “Bebe” Murray and their children Kelly R. Hendrix, Michael Hendrix, Kelly Ann Lewis and William H. Clegg.

J. Walter Huntemann (BSF ’51; MSF ’52) of Blue Ridge, Ga. passed away on September 13, 2006 at the age of 82. A WWII veteran, Mr. Huntemann served a 20-year career at Fernbank Science Center in DeKalb County, Ga., where he developed innovative education programs using the Fernbank Forest as a “living laboratory,” which helped turn the center into one of Atlanta’s most prized education facilities. Upon retirement from Fernbank, the center honored him by renaming the facility’s centerpiece Fernbank Pond the “Huntemann” Pond.

John Souther (BSF 1940) of Gainesville, Ga. passed away on August 18, 2006 at the age of 91. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from UGA and maintained an interest in forestry throughout his life even though he never worked in the field. He introduced the bur oak tree, a native of Ohio, into Georgia and propagated many of the trees now seen throughout the state. He won both state and county awards for growing the largest Bur Oak tree in Georgia. He was also a distinguished World War II veteran, local businessman and noted Georgia author. Mr. Souther turned his combat experience in WWII and his early life on a Blue Ridge mountain farm into two popular non-fiction accounts that found a ready market among servicemen and their families worldwide, as well as North Georgians. The first book, “War Not Forgotten,” an eyewitness account of his experience as a front line officer engaged in combat in North Africa and Italy, was published when he was 80 and was based on his war-time diary. The second, “Between The Bald and The Blood”, named after Georgia’s two highest mountains where his family farm was located, was popular throughout North Georgia and beyond.

Charles Mitchell “C.M.” Stripling, Jr. of West Camilla, Ga. passed away on August 29, 2006 at the age of 86. A lifelong farmer, he received many awards for his work on behalf of conservation and served on the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation Board. In 1987, Mr. Stripling was named National Tree Farmer of the year, after being awarded the state and regional titles for his outstanding work in the planting, care and harvesting of trees. Taking care of his trees, whether the live oak on his farm or the pine trees he raised from seedlings, was a lifelong vocation for him. Mr. Stripling provided a variety of scholarships for local high school students and forestry scholarships for University of Georgia Students.
One hundred winning art entries were recently selected during the 2006 Georgia Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. Meeting at the University of Georgia’s School of Forestry and Natural Resources, judges selected top entries submitted by 750 student artists in K - 12 from across Georgia.

2006 Best of Show honors go to fourteen-year old David Jones, of Rossville, Georgia. The judges gave their highest scores for his vivid color pencil rendition of an Emperor Goose. Jones is home schooled and takes art from Karen Anna Barton at Agape Art Academy.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Best of Show award goes to David Jones, an 8th grade home schooler from Rossville, Georgia.