

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Alabama Leads the Way *pg. 2*
- 37 Years of Summer Practicum *pg. 6*
- 2017 Outstanding Alumnus *pg. 7*
- 45 Years of Women in the SFWS *pg. 7*
- Saving the Wild Tiger *pg. 8*

FEATURE STORY

Hawaiian field course offers transparent lens into human dimension of conservation *pg. 4*



SFWS NEWS • Volume 2, Issue 3 • Summer 2017

Working with Nature for Society's Well Being

In This Issue

- Academics & Learning 2, 4-5, 8
- In the Spotlight 6, 8
- Alumni & Friends 2, 8
- Research & Discovery 3
- Extension & Outreach 6, 8

Upcoming Events

- Future of Tall: Building a Wood High-Rise in the US, **Oct. 4**
- SFWS Career Fair, **Nov. 29**
- Graduation Ceremony and Reception, **Dec. 15**

sfws.auburn.edu/give
Learn how you can support SFWS.

sfws.auburn.edu/newsletter
Visit our newsletter website to read past issues and access digital content related to stories you see here. When you see one of the icons below, you know more content is available online.



slide show



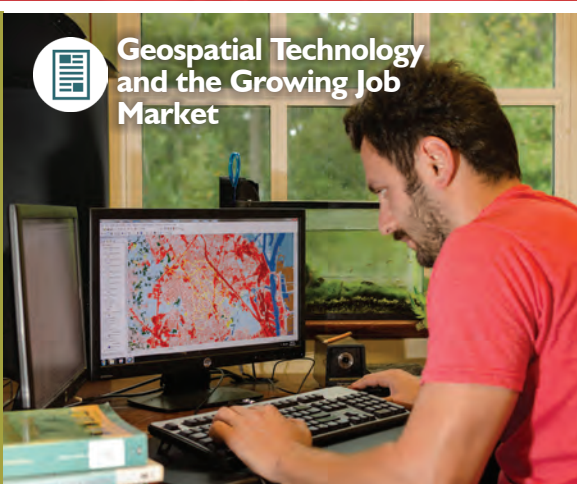
video



related articles



Geospatial Technology and the Growing Job Market



60th Annual Forestry Conclave



Online Exclusive Content Visit auburn.edu/sfws for more on these stories.

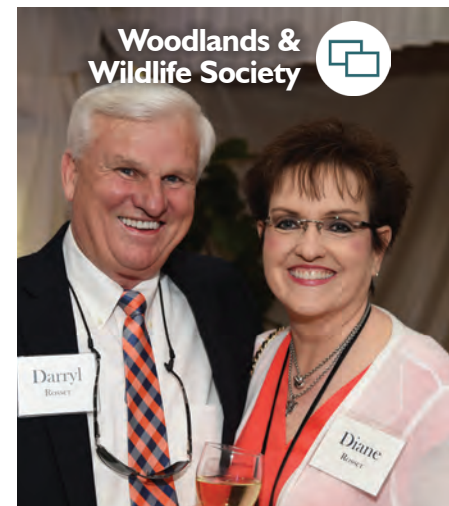


Campaign Leadership Meeting



Tiger Giving Day Portable Sawmill Dedication

Woodlands & Wildlife Society



THIS IS AUBURN.

602 Duncan Drive
1161 W. Sanford Ave., Bldg. 8
Auburn, AL 36849-0001



Alabama's forest products industry leads the way toward a bio-based economy



International Beams, a producer of engineered wood products, recently announced it will invest nearly \$20 million to open a manufacturing facility near Dothan, Alabama, to produce innovative timber panels and beams using Southern pine lumber. Shown with Governor Kay Ivey at the official announcement are Dean Alavalapati and Maria Soledad Peresin, SFWS assistant professor of biomaterials chemistry and nanotechnology.

The bio-based economy, which includes wood processing, construction, chemicals and energy, bioplastics, and packaging, is anticipated to be our next economic wave. By contributing more than \$21 billion, the forest production and processing industry is already a significant player in the Alabama economy. With several other wood-related industries on the horizon, its impact on the state's economy and employment will continue to grow.

Increased wood pellet consumption, the demand for biodegradable wood-based packaging, and the state's one-to-five growth-to-harvest ratio are positive economic indicators. In addition, the use of cross laminated timber (CLT), a newly engineered wood product system, in mid- and high-rise residential and non-residential construction is on the rise. CLT features a unique layered engineering,

giving it steel-like strength. It is light, easy-to-assemble, sustainable, fire resistant, and cost effective, characteristics that make it ideal for commercial construction. CLT offers the structural simplicity needed for cost-effective buildings, as well as benefits such as fast installation, reduced waste, improved thermal performance, and design versatility.

Because of its high strength and dimensional stability, it can be used as an alternative to concrete, masonry, and steel in many building types. Due to its performance compared to conventional materials, it is also gaining in popularity among residential builders, according to International Beams, a Sarasota, Florida-based producer of engineered wood products.

With CLT's growing popularity and diverse uses, as well as the strength of the wood

products industry in Alabama, International Beams recently announced it will invest nearly \$20 million to open the first commercial CLT manufacturing plant. The facility, which will be located near Dothan, will produce innovative timber panels and beams using Southern Pine lumber.

To raise awareness of the significance of CLT to Alabama and beyond, Auburn University will facilitate a roundtable discussion among stakeholders and a public seminar on October 4 in Auburn. The seminar will feature Thomas Robinson, accomplished architect and founder of the Portland, Oregon-based international architectural firm, LEVER Architecture. Robinson's firm is pioneering the use of CLT in the US with "Framework," a project slated to become the first mass timber high-rise in the country.

Given the stability of the forest industry and new product developments, our market research and personal enquiries with a range of stakeholders suggest that the demand for graduates to support bio-based industries will continue to grow. To meet this need, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences has developed a new undergraduate degree program: sustainable biomaterials and packaging.

This multidisciplinary degree, taught in collaboration with the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Business, and Architecture, Design and Construction, will provide students with knowledge, expertise, and hands-on experience in biomass production, harvesting, transportation and other logistics, biomass processing, products/packaging development and testing, and business marketing and sustainability. Pending approval by the Auburn Board of Trustees and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, we anticipate the new degree will begin enrollment fall 2018.



Thank A-You Day
Thank A-You Day was held on April 11. During the celebration, students, faculty, and staff showed their appreciation to SFWS donors and friends. At the event, participants signed thank you cards to share with donors.



Compass Circle
SFWS recently hosted its new young alumni giving society, the Compass Circle, for an update and roundtable discussion with Dean Janaki Alavalapati.

Contact Us

The SFWS newsletter is distributed to alumni and friends of the school. Inquiries and suggestions concerning the newsletter should be directed to the school's Office of Communications and Marketing at the address below.

Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Office of Communications and Marketing
602 Duncan Drive • Auburn, AL 36849
334-844-9248 • sfwscom@auburn.edu

Giving

Questions concerning the school's development program, including annual and corporate giving, planned gifts, and estate planning, should be directed to Heather Crozier, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn, AL 36849. Inquiries may also be made by email to vannhea@auburn.edu or by phone at 334-844-2791.



sfws.auburn.edu

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer. Produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing. September 2017



Lockaby to present prestigious William H. Patrick Lectureship at international meeting of soil scientists

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Professor Graeme Lockaby will present the William H. Patrick Memorial Lectureship at the 2017 international annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America in October in Tampa, Florida.

Lockaby is Clinton McClure Professor of Forest Biochemistry and Environmental Health and associate dean of research at the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University. He also serves as director of the Center for Environmental Studies at the Urban-Rural Interface.

The memorial lectureship was established in honor of Patrick, a pioneer of wetland soils research, to recognize a distinguished scientist who has made significant contributions to some aspect of wetland soils.

The 2017 International Annual Meeting is expected to draw more than 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and

students from around the world and features hundreds of presentations on the latest research in agronomy, crop science, and soil science.

This year's theme is Managing Global Resources for a Secure Future. Lecturers will present their research related to the topics of biogeochemical processing and cycling of nutrients, heavy metals, and pesticides in wetland soils.

Lockaby earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Clemson University and his doctorate in agronomy and soils from Mississippi State University.

His research focuses on the biogeochemistry of forested floodplains, water quality, and the relationships between wetlands and human health. In particular, he has studied relationships between floodplain net primary productivity and circulation of macronutrients through decomposition, litterfall, internal translocation, and other pathways, and

has worked to clarify biogeochemical distinctions between eutrophic and oligotrophic floodplain systems.

Lockaby also investigates the influence of forest loss through urbanization on water and disease vectors for West Nile virus.

He has authored or co-authored 111 refereed journal articles and eight book chapters, and has mentored 25 graduate students as major professor.

"Lockaby's research and professional experiences fit well with this theme and the spirit of the William H. Patrick Lectureship," stated Bruce Vasilas, chair of the Patrick Lecturer Committee and professor of plant and soil sciences at the University of Delaware.

For more information about the international annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, visit acsmeeetings.org.

Latif Kalin selected as an American Society of Civil Engineers Environmental and Water Resources Institute Fellow

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Professor Latif Kalin was presented as an American Society of Civil Engineers 2017 Environmental and Water Resources Institute fellow during the recent World Environmental and Water Resources Congress held in Sacramento, California.

The Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) is the society's technical source for environmental and water-related issues. EWRI fellows are selected annually by the institute



SFWS Professor Latif Kalin (left) with former EWRI President David Dee

to recognize members who have contributed significantly to the advancement or application of water resources or environmental engineering, science, and technology.

Kalin is a full professor within the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and serves as the associate director of the Center for Environmental Studies at the Urban-Rural Interface. He is also adjunct professor in biosystems engineering.

His research program is focused on water quality/quantity modeling at various scales with special interests in nutrient cycling in natural and constructed wetlands. He has mentored several international visiting scientists, three post-docs, two doctoral, and 12 master's students over the past 10 years who are currently actively engaged in the water resources and environmental field.

Kalin has authored or co-authored 57 peer-reviewed journal articles and 12 book chapters, and has given invited talks at many international conferences. In addition to serving on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association from 2012 to 2015, Kalin currently serves on the board of the Journal of Water Quality, Exposure, and Health and the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering.

"Dr. Kalin's advisory and mentorship skills are evident from the several awards and honors awarded to his students," stated Mohamed M. Hantush of the EPA. "Their outstanding performance is yet another testament to Dr. Kalin's leadership and ability to guide his students to perform at their fullest potential."

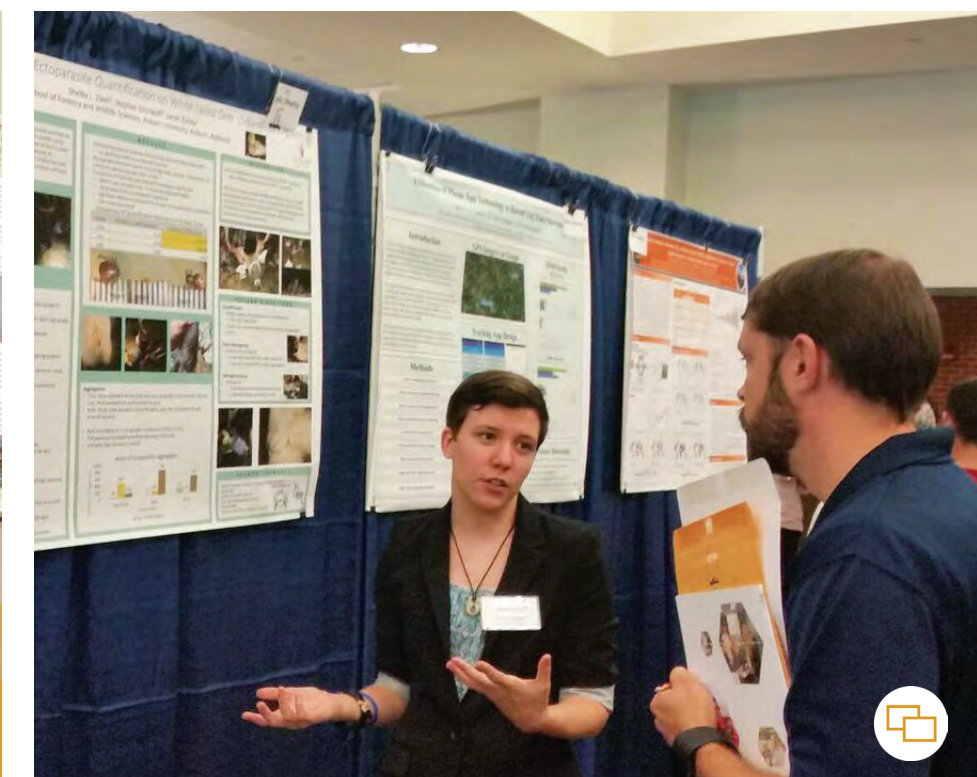


Dean Alavalapati, former Associate Vice President for Research John Liu, and Associate Dean of Research Graeme Lockaby talk with PhD student Jimmy Stiles about his project.

SFWS Hosts Research Open House

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences hosted a graduate student research open house in March. An opportunity to showcase the diversity of the School's research program, the open house also provided a chance for graduate students to present research and network with stakeholders and other members of the academic community.

Nearly 30 graduate students participated in the event. Student poster presentations were judged by internal and external faculty. The following received awards: 1st place (tie): Jennifer Price Tack and John Draper; 2nd place: Shelby Zikeli; 3rd place: John Lancaster; 4th place (tie): Anna Tucker, Ellary Tucker Williams, and Michael Ramirez.



Auburn's This is Research: Student Symposium

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences undergraduate and graduate students recently participated in the Auburn University This is Research: Student Symposium held at the Student Center on April 13. During the symposium, the students presented their research projects with oral and poster presentations, after which they had the opportunity to answer questions from attendees and faculty. The symposium was created to help students develop their research presentation and communication skills.

A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Auburn University has come a long way since the time the first women students, Katherine Broun, Margaret Teague, and Willie Little were admitted in 1892.

Women in natural resources have come a long way, too. The recognition of their positive and critical role in conserving and managing forests, wildlife, and other natural resources is on the rise and widely recognized within government and institutions around the globe. We are seeing more women than ever leading our companies, making significant research discoveries, and participating in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, range, recreation, soils, and the environmental sciences as they relate to natural resources.

Women in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences have come a long way as well. The school welcomed its first female student 45 years ago and now boasts more than 600 women alumni, and is making significant efforts to recruit, educate, and empower women in natural resources. Currently, female students account for 10 percent of forestry enrollment, about 50 percent of our wildlife and natural resource management students, and 20 percent of our faculty.

To increase gender diversity in natural resources-related fields, the school seeks to achieve a greater understanding of issues relating to recruiting women into forestry, wildlife, and other natural resource programs; providing positive and rewarding experiences within its programs; and supporting career opportunities and advancement after graduation. If you have suggestions for us, please share your ideas of how we may best attract more women into the school and prepare them to succeed in their careers.

War Eagle!

Best regards,

Dean Janaki R.R. Alavalapati

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

Dean Janaki R.R. Alavalapati
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Enebak
Associate Dean of Research B. Graeme Lockaby
Managing Editor Jamie Anderson

Office of Communications and Marketing
Project Manager Mike Hales
Editor Hayley Harris
Designer Mary Huddleston

Hands-on Hawaii

Field course offers transparent lens into human dimension of conservation

Written by Kristine Fedoranko
Photos by Dr. Chris Lepczyk and Chara Wood

Renowned for its breathtaking scenery and rich culture, Hawaii is not just an idyllic spring break destination, but also a setting that offers the chance to confront real-world conservation and the individuals and organizations working together to make it possible.

In March 2016, nine students attended a two-week field course on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, and Oahu, an experience that allowed valuable insight into their field of study and passions. The course was led by **Chris Lepczyk**, an associate professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and blended new cultural experiences with interaction among a variety of institutions in conservation, management, and restoration. Lepczyk

planned the logistics for the trip with a goal of giving students the opportunity to understand wildlife, forestry, and natural resources in a new context.

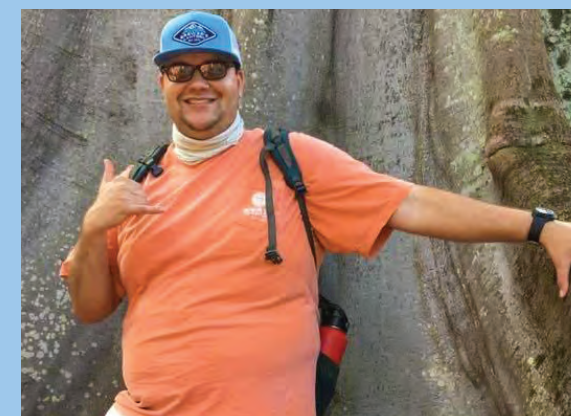
"My career is going to be in conservation and I went to study conservation not in a textbook or article, but in the real world. I wanted to stretch myself, my perspective, and my intellect by doing something unusual," said SFWS natural resources management student **Chara Wood**. "I've been interested in Hawaii since I was a kid, so this opportunity was perfect because I got to study the culture and wildlife under Dr. Lepczyk, a professor who really knows what he's talking about."

Hawaii's location and tropical climate introduced the students to new ecosystems and conservation

challenges distinct to the islands. In addition, Hawaii's geographic isolation can make resource management particularly challenging.

"Hawaii is the leader in both the number of invasive species and endangered species, and it's at the leading edge of on-the-ground conservation issues. The island setting also provides an ideal laboratory to see firsthand how closely people and ecosystems are connected," said Lepczyk.

"The Hawaiian people are pretty much stuck on the islands, so everyone has to be able to come together, agree on things, and try to get along," said SFWS natural resources management student **Tyler Shirley**. "I soon learned they're very in-tune with their environment and resources — more so than on the



"I feel like it opened my eyes in many ways, especially with being able to communicate with people. Scientists need to be able to explain and properly educate the public on many hot topics in conservation at the moment."

— Tyler Shirley

mainland. The majority of people make lifestyle choices to conserve and recycle because the size of the island makes the impact of everything they do very sizeable," said Wood.

During the two weeks, students were able to interact and network with professionals from different nonprofit organizations and government agencies. One of those individuals, Christopher Hawkins, managing partner at Coastlines Group, discussed how human factors affect conservationists' agendas.

"The hike was through the most native forest we saw the entire trip. The flora, the swamp at the top of the mountain, and the sunset on the way down were breathtaking," said Wood.

"I wanted the students to understand the complexity inherent in their intended careers," said Hawkins. "Many students go into conservation studies because they like animals or nature, and they may not realize the role society plays in determining how natural resources are managed and what implications spring from that role."

Students also visited research facilities, offices, and national parks completing a well-rounded scope of the different institutions and people that work to

successfully execute conservation efforts. One highlight of the trip included a visit to the National Tropical Botanical Garden, which showcases Hawaii's rare and tropical plant life. South Shore Gardens Director Tobias Koehler detailed the garden's history on a full-day tour, and he was a leader on the group's eight-mile hike through the Alakai Swamp, atop of Kauai.

One main takeaway for students was learning the significant extent culture plays into natural resource management. Noelani Puniwai, a native Hawaiian and assistant professor in the Department of Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, discussed native Hawaiian uses of natural resources.

"The way people use their land and resources is grounded in their culture. With and without conservationists, there will always be that basal culture

there. In order to be successful, programs have to work with the people there or they won't get very far. After all, they're the people that are using the resources that you're conserving," said Wood.

"I wanted them to experience the ocean and remember what it is like to observe with all your senses when you do science."

— Noelani Puniwai

Later, students had the chance to paddle in a Polynesian canoe to carry out water sampling.

Students were also able to hear from Maakala Kaaumoana,

executive director of the Hanalei Watershed Hui, a community-based organization working to guide a Watershed Action Plan in Hanalei.

"My emphasis is always on the capacity of everyone to make a difference in their place, to begin where you are, learn the issues and the players, and look for ways each of us can matter," said Kaaumoana. "The students asked good questions, and they told stories of their places and how they're facing issues related to natural resources. It is enlightening to both them and me to share these experiences and realize we are all dealing with big and small challenges and can learn from each other's experiences."

In just two weeks, students returned home with a collection of experiences that enriched their perspectives and shaped their futures.

"They gained great insight into real-world issues with stakeholders, managers, policy makers, and planners," said Lepczyk. "For many of the students, it changed or sharpened what they want

to do after they graduate."

"It was inspiring to meet a variety of men and women doing a variety of things, and seeing that they're still loving their work. It made the term conservation very real and tangible, and I'm excited to get my degree and get to work," said Wood. Lepczyk hopes to develop this course and continue to provide students with more opportunities for hands-on experiences.

"The deep exposure to real world management and conservation issues caught many students unaware of just how important our natural resources are and the tools needed to manage them. The course demonstrated the importance of how agencies use formal decision-making processes, how long management takes, and what collaboration means toward success."



Students toured a section of predator-proof fence at Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge with endangered species biologist Adam Griesemer, who engaged the students in discussion about seabird conservation.



While touring a private estate on Kauai, award-winning author and photographer Hob Osterlund spoke to the students about the near-threatened Hawaiian seabird Laysan albatross. "Nothing is more important to me than allowing students to witness the beauty and magnificence of the Laysan albatross. Once you've heard a bit of their story, you can't help but care about them," said Osterlund. Students also had the opportunity to be interviewed for Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology.



Marian Chau, seed conservation laboratory manager of Lyon Arboretum's Hawaiian Rare Plant Program, shows the students the facility where they store millions of seeds of rare and endangered Hawaiian plants.



Students paddled a traditional Polynesian canoe in Hilo Bay to carry out water sampling. "It was deeply rewarding to hear the students reflect on their paddling and what they learned about coastal ecosystems. We could tell they learned more than just the science, they observed the spaces they were in, paddled in our canoes, and respected the knowledge that was shared," said Puniwai.

Dixon Center celebrates 37 years of summer practicum



Over the spring and summer, many groups host their continuing education classes, field exercises, workshops, and other natural resources-related instruction at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center. Since last spring, the Dixon Center has been base camp for Arkansas Tech University, Mississippi State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Long Leaf Alliance, Southern Regional Extension, Association of Consulting Foresters, Alabama Forestry Commission, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. SFWS students recently completed their 2017 procurement practicum course at the Dixon Center. Working with practicing foresters from across the industry, students completed a 3-day course designed to simulate the business of buying and selling timber on the open market. The Dixon Center gives special thanks to those who donated their time, including independent

forester Cameron Stovall, Patrick Jernigan of International Paper, Garret Shimunek of Coastal Lumber, Lonnie Wascom of Weyerhaeuser, Jon-Michael Clark of Westrock, Mark Byal of Industree Timber, and retired SFWS professor Glenn Glover.

The SFWS and the Dixon Center celebrated the 37th year of summer practicum. With 32 forestry students, 26 wildlife students, 17 visiting forestry students from Alabama A&M, plus faculty and teaching assistants, the quiet little campus was buzzing with activity. During their time at the center, students are exposed to techniques associated with managing forests and the associated wildlife. In the process, they learn to identify and sample trees, understory plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and more. At no additional charge, they develop an appreciation for lower Alabama heat, briars, bushes, and bugs.



Students gather for a photo after the day's classroom instruction and field exercises.

Later in the summer, Professor and Extension Specialist David Coyle of Southern Regional Extension Forestry and the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Dr. Nancy Loewenstein of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, conducted a two-day workshop for forestry professionals. Agency staff, landowners, and forestry consultants learned about identification and management of common native and non-native insects, fungi, and plants in forestry (and in some cases, urban) settings. Classroom-style teaching was paired with field trips each day where attendees saw some of the issues firsthand.

SFWS faculty and students participate in bioblitz events held around the state

A bioblitz was held this spring on Allen Acres, an EBSCO Industries property in Moundville, Alabama. A bioblitz is a hands-on, citizen science event to promote interest in local biodiversity. Allen Acres consists of several thousand acres of mature floodplain forest on the Black Warrior River in Hale County, about 20 miles south of Tuscaloosa. By the end of the day, hundreds of plants and animals were documented from the property. Some of the highlights included several alligator snapping turtles, three-toed amphiumas

(large aquatic salamanders found only in the southeastern US), a recently-described species of crayfish, and a new species of liverwort symbiont. As noted by SFWS doctoral student Jimmy Stiles, "Normally we think of other universities (especially the University of Alabama) as competition, however, this bioblitz was all camaraderie." The event was organized by the Black Warrior Riverkeepers.

Locally, a bioblitz was completed at the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center as a joint project between the Alabama Cooperative

Extension System, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the College of Agriculture, the Auburn University Libraries, and the Museum of Natural History. Nearly 200 people participated in the daylong event including faculty, outreach specialists, research scientists, graduate students, and undergraduate students from Auburn and Alabama Extension. Over 250 species were identified, including 79 species of insects, 32 types of trees, 36 understory plants, 31 species of birds, and 13 mammals.



A bioblitz was held this spring on Allen Acres, an EBSCO Industries property in Moundville, Alabama. SFWS representatives joined forces with more than 30 scientists from Auburn and other universities around the state to scour the woods and waters searching for some of Alabama's astounding biodiversity.

In the Spotlight



Assistant Professor **Sanjiv Kumar** was hired within Auburn's multidisciplinary Climate-Human-Earth System Sciences (CHES) cluster. In addition to his research, Kumar will teach courses related to the new geospatial and environmental informatics degree program (GSEI).

Kumar holds an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and a master's and PhD in civil engineering from Purdue University.

Kumar's background is in climate and hydrological

modeling. His expertise involves using super computers to develop simulations that support the research of land and climate interactions and their impacts on the availability of natural resources.

As part of the CHES cluster, Kumar and his colleagues will develop models and assessments helpful in improving society's resiliency against climate extremes and variability, as well as the resulting impacts on weather events such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes.

Among his many achievements, Kush has published four book chapters, produced more than 30 referred journal articles, and provided countless abstracts, presentations, and posters.

To be inducted into the Alabama Foresters' Hall of Fame, a nominee must receive unanimous approval of the Hall of Fame Award subcommittee members.



SFWS research fellow **John Kush** was named the 2017 inductee to the Alabama Foresters' Hall of Fame at the Southern Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held in Miramar Beach, Florida.

After earning a master's and PhD in forest ecology from Auburn in 2002, Kush became a research fellow, where he has continued his career-spanning work with longleaf pine, fire, and other aspects of southern forest management.

New Faculty & Staff

Please join us in welcoming new members of the faculty and staff:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Nicole Angeli
postdoctoral researcher | Ying Lin
postdoctoral researcher |
| Jason Hare
contracts and grants specialist | Luiz Mendez
research assistant |
| Brian Klingeill
postdoctoral researcher | Russell Miller
forest management specialist |
| Sanjiv Kumar
assistant professor | Stephen Zenas
research assistant |

Happy Retirement

Please join us in wishing a very happy retirement to **David Padgett** and **Davey Sightler** of the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center.

James Earl Kenamer named 2017 Outstanding Alumnus

SFWS recognized James Earl Kenamer, a 1964 game management graduate and former faculty member, as the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Award recipient during a presentation at its advisory council meeting March 1 in Auburn.

Kenamer, who later earned master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State University, is part of a multigenerational family of Auburn wildlife alumni and faculty. He is the son of Earl Kenamer, Auburn's first wildlife extension specialist. James Kenamer's son, Lee, is also a wildlife graduate of Auburn.

It has been said that Kenamer is the embodiment of the Auburn Creed. "He grew up there, went to Auburn

schools, attended Auburn, served on its city council, and was lucky enough to return to teach after he earned his doctorate," said Lee Kenamer. "He's received many awards for his professional contributions over the years, but Auburn is where he always called home."

Kenamer served as a member of Auburn's faculty before accepting a position with the National Wildlife Turkey Federation in 1980. While in this role, Kenamer was instrumental in building the conservation department and formed a technical committee which became the driving force in the nationwide trap and transfer of wild turkeys, a method that helped to restore wild turkey

populations across the continent. Kenamer later served as the federation's chief conservation officer for conservation and outreach programs. He went on to lead the department for 32 years, and was responsible for coordinating programs with state and federal agencies, private organizations, and companies throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico.

The SFWS recognizes outstanding alumni annually. Award recipients must be graduates of the school, have careers that demonstrate a history of outstanding contributions to forestry or wildlife sciences within the state or beyond, and must exhibit exemplary character and integrity.



45 Years of Women in SFWS

Women have come a long way since 1892 and Auburn University is celebrating "125 Years of Auburn Women" by recognizing women who have overcome challenges to become pioneers in their field, all while providing inspiration and leadership to others. In honor of this milestone, SFWS asked several alumnae to tell us about their lives and careers, and to share any hard-earned wisdom they would impart to women pursuing careers in natural resources. The alumnae shared details about the people and experiences which contributed to their success, where they see the most growth potential within their respective fields or industries, and their advice for current students and new graduates, and their insights about how the school can best support women pursuing natural resource-based careers. We hope you'll find their stories as inspiring as we have.



Ashley Parkman '95 (Forestry operations) currently serves as director of education programs for the Alabama Forestry Association.



Sarah Lessard '17 (Natural resources) is currently publication relations specialist for the Habitat and Species Conservation Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



Nina Dowling Payne '79 (Forest management) is a registered forester, former consultant, and current research associate with the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative.



Jocelyn Wilson '97 (Forestry management) is currently planning and inventory manager for Piedmont Timberlands.



Cindy Lowry '96 (Wildlife sciences) is executive director of the Alabama Rivers Alliance.



To read the alumnae biographies and their full responses, visit auburn.edu/sfws/125-years-of-auburn-women.



Black Alumni Weekend

SFWS alumni gathered for the annual Black Alumni Weekend held in April. The weekend featured many events including a Friday night mixer, tailgate, photo shoot, Saturday night awards dinner and dance, and Sunday worship service.

Shown at the awards dinner and dance, left to right: Renuka Alavalapati, Dean Alavalapati, Wayne Little, Sylvia Little, Vivian Boyd, Ernest Boyd, Glenda Little, Dana Little, Cassandra Day, and Kenneth Day.

Golden Eagles Reunion

SFWS recently held its annual Golden Eagles luncheon to honor alumni of 50 years or more. Attendees were greeted by Dean Janaki Alavalapati, emeritus faculty, former Deans Richard Brinker and Emmett Thompson, and Glenn Glover. The event provided a venue for the alumni to reconnect with the school and share news about their lives and careers with their fellow graduates.

First row, left to right: Marvin Whitley '64, Nancy Whitley, SFWS Development Coordinator Sharon Tatum, John Crocker '54, Letta Crocker, Ginny McIntyre, Billy McIntyre '64, Jim Spears '58, Bobbie Herrington, Joe Rigsby '60, Thagard Colvin '67, SFWS Dean Alavalapati, SFWS Development Director Heather Crozier

Second row, left to right: Emmett Thompson, Ginger Kelley, Walt Kelley '64

Third row, left to right: Margaret Hill, Bob Lowe '59, K. Allan Elliott '62, Norma Sample, Eugene Sample '54

Fourth row, left to right: Ed Hill III '62, Dick Brinker, Jim Sexton '64



Saving the Wild Tiger

Clemson, Auburn lead US efforts in higher education to save wild tiger populations

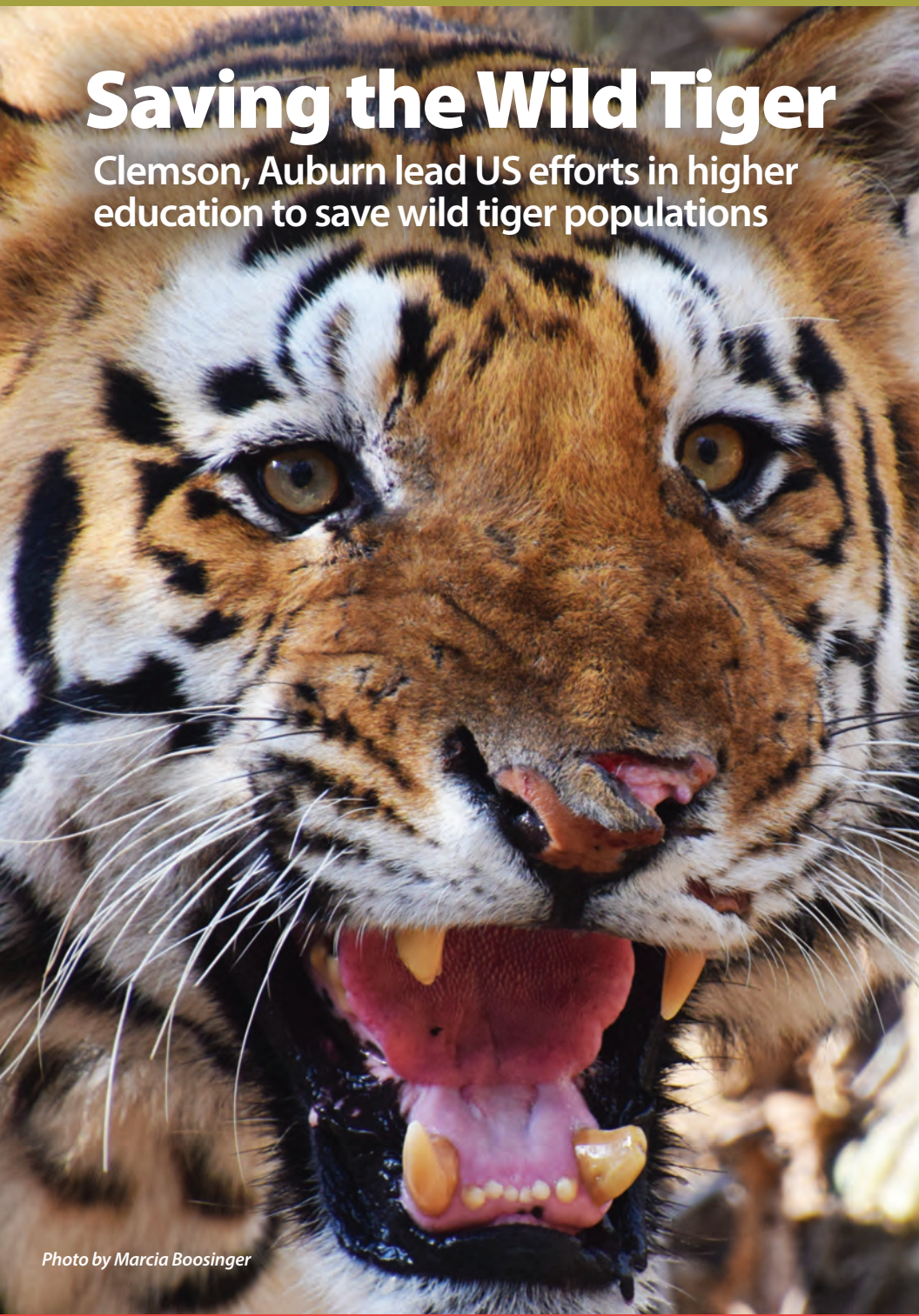


Photo by Marcia Boosinger

Clemson University and Auburn University have teamed up to throw the weight of multiple academic disciplines behind efforts to save the world's wild tiger population. The two universities, together with Louisiana State University and the University of Missouri, are leading the efforts of the newly formed US Tiger University Consortium, so named for the mascots that both institutions share.

According to Brett Wright, dean of the Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, the dwindling tiger populations are an issue demanding the attention of land-grant institutions such as those belonging to the consortium. For Wright, the issue should also be central to the many who cheer on their preferred team on game days.

"Students, faculty, and alumni chant 'Go Tigers' on a daily basis, but not many know the truth about the animal we hold so dear," Wright said. "These universities share the tiger mascot and benefit from that majestic symbol of strength, dignity, and beauty, so they share a moral responsibility to apply all of our resources to save the animal that inspires that symbol."

The consortium was initiated by Clemson University President James P. Clements, who also serves on the Global Tiger Initiative Council. This international council made up of business and conservation leaders was formed to assist the Global Tiger Forum in saving remaining populations of wild tigers, with a goal of doubling tiger numbers in the wild by 2022.

Thanks to the council's efforts, tiger numbers in 2016 were on the rise for the first time in 100 years, but the work to restore their numbers fully is just getting started. Janaki Alavalapati, dean of the School of Forestry

and Wildlife Sciences, said that with more than one university approaching the problem, the odds of success in saving tiger populations only increases.

"Each of our institutions possess various academic disciplines important to the future of tiger conservation and protection," Alavalapati said. "This is an obvious example of the need for multidisciplinary contribution not just across colleges and departments but across universities."

The consortium will focus on several avenues to achieve its goal, including research that supports evidence-based decision making by conservation professionals. As far as concrete action that can take place in countries where tiger populations are most affected, Wright and Alavalapati hope to create the next generation of environmental leaders through university-supported academic scholarships and assistantships. Participating universities will equip these leaders with means to make direct change where it is needed across the globe.

The Global Tiger Forum estimates there are only about 3,900 tigers remaining in the wild. According to Keshav Varma, chief operating officer of the Global Tiger Initiative Council, the reasons for dwindling populations are varied. Major issues include deterioration of the tigers' natural habitats and poaching, which affects the 13 countries in which tiger populations remain.

"Each of the 13 tiger range countries now has a recovery plan in place, which is a better situation than we were in even five years ago," Wright said. "The consortium is committed to supporting these national programs through training and research, and the work is already well underway."

Academics & Learning

SFWS honors faculty, staff, and students during recent awards celebration



Forestry Club Outstanding Faculty Awardee, Dr. Tom Gallagher (center), shown with current Forestry Club members during recent SFWS Awards Celebration and Dinner.

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences recently honored its faculty, staff, and students at its annual Spring Student Awards Celebration and Dinner. Over 150 students, their families, friends, and donors joined the faculty and staff to congratulate the awardees.

Through the generosity of SFWS alumni and friends, nearly 20 awards were given to students totaling over \$20,000. A number of SFWS faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding efforts in the classroom, laboratory, advising, and outreach last year.

SFWS Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Enebak echoed the sentiments of the faculty and staff, "We are extremely proud of our students' hard work and commitment to their studies, as well as their leadership preparation for future careers in

natural resources, wildlife, and forestry."

Many SFWS donors, alumni, and friends attended the awards banquet to personally meet and present their awards to recipients. Student awards are distributed annually and selected based on criteria outlined within the established funding agreements.

For more information about SFWS awards, or to create a new award in the school, contact the SFWS Office of Development at sfwsdev@auburn.edu or 334-844-1983.

For a complete list of winners, see our full article online.



In the Spotlight

Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to our faculty, staff, alumni, and students on their recent achievements.

Alumnus **Bill Retzlaff**, Distinguished Research Professor, Southern Illinois University

Research associate **John Kush**, Spirit of Sustainability Staff Award, Auburn University

Research associate and former doctoral student **Yusuf Celikbag**, Distinguished Dissertation Award, Auburn University

Professors **Tom Gallagher**, **Mathew Smidt**, and graduate student **Johnathan Kerney**, First Place, Southcentral Region Technical Writing Award Competition, Forest Resources Association, Mobile, Alabama

Graduate student **Andrea Wahl-Cole**, Top Graduate Student, Auburn University

Graduate student **Michael Ramirez**, Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award, 19th Biennial Southern Silviculture Conference, Virginia Tech

Graduate student **Anna Tucker**, Best Student Poster, Euring Analytical Meeting and Workshop, Barcelona, Spain



Alumni & Friends

SAVE THE DATE! SFWS will host a joint alumni reception with the University of Georgia and University of Florida on November 16 at the SAF National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you plan to attend, be sure to stop by the reception that evening.