

# College of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment

## FEATURE STORY

Crooked Oaks, a love letter from Pat Dye to Auburn University pg. 6-7

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Walley gives Auburn's commencement address pg. 2

CFWE hosts its first Coastal Zone Management course pg. 4

CFWE team is "Greening the Southeast" pg. 5

Maggard recognized as Extension Forester of the Year pg. 9

Little chosen as Outstanding Alum pg. 10

## CROOKED OAKS

*Lodge · Outfitter · Venue*

CFWE NEWS • Summer 2023

Working with Nature for Society’s Well Being

### In This Issue

Administration .....2-3  
Academics & Learning ..... 4  
Research & Discovery.....5 & 7  
Extension & Outreach ..... 8-9  
Alumni & Friends ..... 9-12

### Upcoming Events

Fall Commencement **12/8**



[cfwe.auburn.edu/giving](https://cfwe.auburn.edu/giving)  
Learn how you can support the CFWE.



[cfwe.auburn.edu/newsletter](https://cfwe.auburn.edu/newsletter)  
Visit our 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.



website



photo gallery



video



related articles



Studying wildlife abroad in South Africa



Gaining valuable hands-on learning at the Dixon Center

### On Campus & Beyond

Visit our [flicker site to view our photo gallery](#) or [cfwe.auburn.edu](https://cfwe.auburn.edu) for more stories.



Celebrating our summer commencement



Giving students first campus experience at Camp War Eagle

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

AUBURN  
College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Environment



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUBURN, AL  
PERMIT NO. 9



# /// A message from THE DEAN



Auburn University wrapped up its summer 2023 term with a commencement address by our own alumnus, Marc Walley of Forest Investment Associates. We are certain Marc sent the new graduates off with wise words to begin their life and careers.

One of the stories

I'm most pleased to share with you is our feature story about the gift of Crooked Oaks, Coach Pat Dye's 415-acre homestead. Crooked Oaks will provide a venue for majors that have not previously had access to a field practicum experience and continue our long tradition of providing high quality experiential learning opportunities for our students. Crooked Oaks is also a special event venue available to the Auburn Family and beyond. We hope you'll enjoy this story about what it meant to him and how so many are now working to keep his legacy and vision for the property alive.

Among our exceptional faculty, I'd like to especially note the work of Christopher Lepczyk, who will be the new interim director of the Honors College, and Will Gulsby, who is taking nature-based education to the masses with his award-winning "Wild Turkey Science" podcast. The transformative work of Soledad Peresin on the newly awarded NSF Engines grant aims to "Green the Southeast" with a collaborative, multi-disciplinary effort to kickstart a self-sustaining bioeconomy in our region that will benefit industry, researchers, farmers and consumers.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the new scholarships established courtesy of two forest industry giants. As we look for ways to attract and support a diverse student population, these scholarships will enhance access to an Auburn education for first generation, rural and underserved students.

Thank you for your support in our efforts to elevate our students' academic experiences, perform innovative research to advance our fields and deliver that science to the citizens of Alabama to improve their lives.

*Janaki R. R. Alavalapati*

Janaki R. R. Alavalapati, Emmett F. Thompson Dean



## Administration

### Auburn alumnus and forestry executive Marc Walley serves as the summer 2023 commencement speaker

Marc Walley, president and chief executive officer of Forest Investment Associates (FIA), delivered the keynote address to Auburn University's 1,400 summer graduates during the institution's two commencement ceremonies on Aug. 5 in Neville Arena.

"I am delighted to welcome Marc back to Auburn as our summer commencement speaker," said Auburn University President Christopher B. Roberts prior to the ceremony. "In addition to being an accomplished leader in the forest investment industry, Marc represents the ideas that define an Auburn education, including hard work, a commitment to excellence and raising the bar for the next generation. I am confident he will inspire our graduates to achieve greatness in their next endeavors."

After graduating from Auburn in 1985, Walley joined Scott Paper Company in Mobile, where he spent four years supporting its timberland management and strategic operations. Upon joining FIA in 1994, Walley worked alongside a team of investors and industry experts to acquire and expand the company's portfolio and was eventually appointed to executive vice president and director of timberland management in 2008. He was named president and chairman of the Executive and Investment Committees in 2016. As president and CEO, he also serves as a member of FIA's Board of Directors.

Walley currently serves as a member of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Advisory Council and the Strategic and Tactical Advancement Resource Committee. In addition to chairing the college's campaign leadership team during the university's last capital campaign, Walley was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2017.



*"Anyone who knows me knows how proud I am of my Auburn family and my Auburn education. While I have been personally and professionally blessed, speaking to Auburn's graduates and sharing insights from my journey is the honor of a lifetime."*

– Mark Walley

### Eckhardt to serve as chair-elect of University Senate



Lori Eckhardt, a professor of integrated forest pathology and entomology and director of the Forest Health Cooperative, has been selected as chair-elect of the Auburn University Senate.

The University Senate consists of faculty members and representatives from non-academic units with the purpose of advising the university's president on matters concerning academic policies as well as issues that affect the university community at large.

Eckhardt joined Auburn University in 2005 as an assistant research professor and moved to a tenure-track position after seven years. She has an outstanding record of service to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment and to the university with terms on numerous committees, often as chair.

"I'm honored to be chosen as chair-elect," Eckhardt said. "I value service and believe it is important to give back to the community that continues to inspire me and my career."

Eckhardt's priorities will be collaboration and openness between Senate, faculty and administration; diversity, inclusion and gender equity; and the support of non-tenure-track faculty. She will serve one term as chair-elect and assume new duties as the chair of the University Senate in 2024.

### Christopher Lepczyk named interim director of Auburn University's Honors College



Following an internal search, Christopher A. Lepczyk, Alumni Professor in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, was named interim director of Auburn's Honors College.

As director, Lepczyk will oversee the college's central programs that provide specially designed learning experiences, resources and professional opportunities for high-achieving students until a permanent director is identified to replace Tiffany Sippial, who transitioned from the university earlier this month.

A well-regarded instructor and interdisciplinary scholar in ecology, Lepczyk brings extensive experience to the position of interim director, including teaching in the honors programs at both Auburn and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During his time in Hawai'i, Lepczyk served as an honors faculty cohort member, where he worked to strengthen the institution's emphasis on transformative educational experiences and civic engagement opportunities to foster more meaningful student learning experiences.

In addition to his experiences in Auburn's honors programs, Lepczyk is an advocate for undergraduate education in the CFWE through his efforts to establish opportunities for students to participate in independent research, experiential field programs and innovative coursework. As a result of his active involvement with undergraduate students at both institutions, Lepczyk has

been recognized with numerous teaching and mentorship awards, including Auburn's Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Harry Murphy Award for Excellence in Research.

"In addition to being a respected student-focused educator, scholar and colleague, Dr. Lepczyk brings a wide array of experience and service to the role of interim director," said Associate Provost Norman Godwin. "I am confident he will lead the Honors College during this important time of transition and continue the college's efforts to promote academic opportunities and community engagement."

To read more about Lepczyk, visit [auburn.edu](http://auburn.edu).



*"As interim director, I look forward to contributing my collective experiences and knowledge to strengthen Auburn's Honors College community, particularly during an interim period where stability and support are critical to its continued success."*

– Christopher Lepczyk

### Gulsby awarded Alabama Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Award



Presenting the awards were Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship, AWF President Steve Forehand, and Horace Horn with PowerSouth Energy and Susan Comensky with Alabama Power Company. Shown middle left is Will Gulsby and middle right is Marcus Lashley.

Will Gulsby, associate professor of wildlife ecology and management in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment at Auburn University, and Marcus Lashley, associate professor of wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida, were jointly awarded the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award during the 2023 Alabama Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet for their podcast "Wild Turkey Science."

The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF), in conjunction with Alabama Power Company and PowerSouth Energy, co-sponsored the event which took place on Friday, August 4, at The Marriott Legends at Capitol Hill in Prattville. Governor Kay Ivey commended the awardees through an exclusive congratulatory video prepared for the occasion.

Gulsby and Lashley, researchers and turkey hunting enthusiasts, teamed up early this year to

develop their podcast. "Wild Turkey Science" endeavors to provide impartial, data-supported insights regarding the ecology and management of wild turkeys. Gulsby and Lashley routinely involve experts engaged in wild turkey research in their discussion, allowing them to articulate their discoveries authentically—a refreshing method for landowners, land managers and turkey hunters.

"It's been a little over a year since Marcus and I decided to partner on what was originally his vision," Gulsby said. "We

decided then that we would do our best to share the science on wild turkeys without bias, even if it meant we'd face criticism. There's much work left to do, but it's so nice to take a moment to celebrate this award and the feeling of validation that it brings."

Since its debut in January, Gulsby and Lashley have crafted 39 episodes of the podcast, amassing over 200,000 downloads. "Wild Turkey Science" is the highest rated podcast on wild turkey subject matter and spent time as the #3 podcast in the science category rankings on Apple Podcasts.

"Wild Turkey Science" serves as an outlet for new and extended research initiatives positioned to advance the overall understanding of wild turkeys, their management and the preservation of thriving populations for the benefit of future generations.

*"Receiving this award demonstrates Dr. Gulsby's exceptional dedication to conservation research. His work on the podcast 'Wild Turkey Science' exemplifies his skill as a researcher and instructor, actively contributing novel approaches to the field of wildlife conservation."*

– Dean Alavalapati

Ally Cobern, a CFWE wildlife ecology and management student, was also recognized for her selection as the Youth Conservationist of the Year.

## College of Forestry, Wildlife & Environment

### CFWE NEWS • Summer 2023

Emmett F. Thompson Dean Janaki R.R. Alavalapati  
Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs.....Todd Steury  
Assoc. Dean of Research.....Daowei Zhang  
Extension Coordinator .....Mark Smith  
Managing Editor.....Jamie Anderson  
Contributing Editor.....Jessica Nelson  
Contributing Photographer.....Allison Killingsworth  
Designer.....Kelly Knowles

### Contact Us

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

Auburn University  
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment  
Office of Communications and Marketing  
602 Duncan Drive • Auburn, AL 36849  
334-844-9248 • [cfwecom@auburn.edu](mailto:cfwecom@auburn.edu)

### Giving

Questions concerning the college's development program, including annual and corporate giving, planned gifts and estate planning should be directed to the Office of Advancement at 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn, AL 36849. Inquiries may also be made to Heather Crozier via email at [vannhea@auburn.edu](mailto:vannhea@auburn.edu) or by phone at 334-844-2791.



AUBURN  
College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Environment



[cfwe.auburn.edu](http://cfwe.auburn.edu)

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



## CFWE FEWL Academy members meet leaders and policymakers in Washington, D.C.

Recently the Forests, Environment and Wildlife Leadership (FEWL) Academy within the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment visited Washington, D.C. The visit provided opportunities for students to interact with policymakers and natural resource organizations, allowing them to gain firsthand insights from leaders involved in shaping natural resource policy in the United States. Faculty advisors Dean Janaki Alavalapati and Associate Professor Adam Maggard accompanied the students and facilitated discussions with the representatives.

While on the trip, the students enjoyed a private tour of the Capitol, led by Joseph Rosenwinkle from the Office of Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (Florida). They also engaged with Andria Weeks, associate deputy chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and visited the United States Geological Survey, or USGS. During this visit, they had a direct meeting with John D. Thompson, deputy chief of the USGS Cooperative Research Units in the Ecosystems Mission Area. Later at the Auburn University Office of Federal Relations, they were welcomed by Andrew Newton, the director of federal relations.

They also engaged in a lunch meeting with David Tenny, who serves as the president and CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, or NAFO, and Terry Baker, CEO of the Society of American Foresters. Afterward, Newton guided them on a tour of the D.C.-based Auburn University facility. In addition, they held meetings with personnel from several governmental offices, including Office Administrator Kyle Nichols of the Department of State, John Henry Woods, legislative correspondent for the Office of Senator Katie Britt, Emily McBride, legislative assistant for the Office of Senator Tommy Tuberville and Will Stiers, legislative assistant for the Office of Congressman Mike Rogers. Members of the academy also spoke with Annie Arbuthnot and Kate Macken from the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, who are integral members of the forestry team within the Office of Conservation and Water.

***“Experiential learning opportunities such as this play a significant role in enhancing students’ personal development and leadership skills.”***

– Adam Maggard



While on the trip, the FEWL Academy students were able to partake in a private tour of the Capitol Building.

“This distinctive experience provided the students with valuable insights as they encountered various viewpoints on leadership definitions, the shared and distinct attributes of leaders and the intricate challenges confronted regularly by government officials, CEOs and policymakers,” said Maggard.

Current FEWL Academy members are Benjamin Bradley, Ally Cobern, Noah Coleman, Bayleigh Lamberson, Jaquie Parker, Samantha Schweisthal, Rory Smith, Lauren Stevens, Alex Warr, Josie Wolan and Lauren Wright.

They represent a wide range of majors including forestry, wildlife

sciences pre-vet medicine, natural resources management, sustainable biomaterials and packaging, and wildlife ecology and management.

Qualified students in Auburn’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment who are in good academic standing and interested in developing leadership skills are invited to apply. Each year, 12 to 15 applicants are selected to participate.

To learn more about the individuals in the 2023 FEWL Academy class, review their student biographies on the main FEWL Academy webpage: <https://cfwe.auburn.edu/fewl-academy/>.

## CFWE hosts Coastal Zone Management course at Dauphin Island Sea Lab



Christopher Anderson, a professor of coastal wetland ecology, in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, led a two-week Coastal Zone Management course this May at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The course provided students with a multi-disciplinary, experiential learning opportunity at the state’s primary marine research and education facility. The Coastal Zone Management course drew 15 upper-level undergraduate students for a comprehensive review of coastal environments and the challenge of protecting these areas and their natural resources. The course, a requirement for CFWE’s recently launched Coastal Management minor, drew approximately half its students from Auburn University, with the rest hailing from other universities across Alabama.

During the course, students visited field sites and engaged with a variety of local resource managers and agencies who acted as guest speakers, hosted field tours and shared their professional expertise. For instance, coastal managers Katie Baltzer, Mary Kate Brown and Rebekah Farmer from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) led students on an assessment of the Lower Perdido Islands, a series of small islands in lower Perdido Bay. The TNC managers discussed the challenge of minimizing impacts from heavy boater use while protecting and restoring important habitats on and around the islands. After their field review of the islands, students evaluated recent designs formulated by students in biosystems engineering under the instruction of Anna Linhoss, as well as landscape architecture under the instruction

of Rob Holmes. The designs were collaborative student efforts, with input from TNC, aimed to stabilize and protect the islands in question while still providing recreational use. This initiative was funded by a grant awarded by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine – Gulf Research Program and supported student opportunities to undertake comprehensive coastal design and assessment endeavors.

The Coastal Zone Management course included several other field trips, offering students hands-on learning experiences in coastal environments. Will Underwood and Amy Hunter from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources led an excursion into the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, where students learned about conservation efforts and ongoing research in the area. At Bayou La Batre, students had the opportunity to evaluate the Lightning Point marsh restoration area with the guidance of TNC. The class also visited Weeks Bay, where Johanna Gertsch, Scott Phipps and other staff of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve provided a tour that focused on shoreline management and the challenges associated with coastal preservation.

“The Coastal Zone Management course at Dauphin Island Sea Lab was a transformative experience for our students,” said Chris Anderson. “It allowed

them to witness firsthand the complexities of managing our coastal environments and the critical role managers play in supporting the sustainability of these ecosystems.”

***“The collaboration with local organizations and agencies, coupled with the immersive field trips, created a fantastic learning experience that provided a great overview of pertinent coastal issues and the professionals working toward solutions.”***

– Chris Anderson

While the course is a requirement for the Coastal Management minor, it is open to all Auburn University students as well as students from other universities across Alabama. The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment invites students who are passionate about coastal conservation and management to join in the commitment to preserving and protecting our coastal resources.

For more information about the Coastal Management minor offered by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, visit <https://cfwe.auburn.edu/programs/minors/>.

## CFWE research team receives NSF grant to “Green the Southeast”



Shown center is Maria Soledad Peresin with researchers in her lab. From left to right are Duber Garces, Diego Cuartas and Fatimatu Bello.

Maria Soledad Peresin, associate professor of forest biomaterials, is one of the researchers recently awarded \$1 million from the U.S. National Science Foundation’s Regional Innovation Engines, or NSF Engines, program.

The funded project, titled “Advancing carbon-neutral crop technologies to develop sustainable consumer goods (AL, GA, NC, TN),” or “Greening the Southeast” for short, aims to develop a green, circular bioeconomy for building materials and consumer goods in the Southeast that reduces climate change impacts from manufacturing by eliminating industry reliance on petroleum and environmentally costly fibers. The project could benefit the Southeast at every level from academic researcher to farmers and consumers.

Led by Jeremy Schmutz of HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, the team of experts across multiple disciplines and institutions is among the more than 40 unique teams to receive one of the first-ever NSF Engines Development Awards, which will help partners collaborate to create economic, societal and technological opportunities for their regions.

***“These gains will include job opportunities and training for diverse scientists from minority-serving institutions and rural communities in plant genetics and genomics, plant gene editing and perennial agronomy.”***

– Sole Peresin

“The engine’s focus across the entire product development life cycle and the engagement of a diverse group of stakeholders will

benefit those at each discovery stage, build incentives and drive innovation forward,” said Peresin.

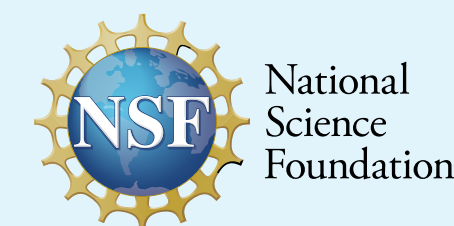
The NSF Engines program is a transformational investment for the nation, ensuring the U.S. remains competitive for decades to come.

“These NSF Engines Development Awards lay the foundation for emerging hubs of innovation and potential future NSF Engines,” said NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan. “These awardees are part of the fabric of NSF’s vision to create opportunities everywhere and enable innovation anywhere. They will build robust regional partnerships rooted in scientific and technological innovation in every part of our nation. Through these planning awards, NSF is seeding the future for in-place innovation in communities and to grow their regional economies through research and partnerships. This will unleash ideas, talent, pathways and resources to create vibrant innovation ecosystems all across our nation.”

Peresin is joined by other Auburn University faculty and staff in developing the project. Michelle Cole, head of the Auburn chapter of the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, or MANRRS, will work with Co-PI Kankshita Swaminathan of HudsonAlpha on the workforce development arm with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion.

As part of the planning process, Assistant Professor and Alabama Extension Specialist Leanne Dillard will assist with extension activities pertaining to the development of a data-driven plan for meeting the education and training needs of the ENGINE stakeholders in a scalable and coordinated way, with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion as a guiding principle.

“The southern region has significant resources in farmable marginal land, research in plant genomics — many groups focusing on sustainable biomaterials — and significant untapped resources



for new scientists across many HBCUs,” said Peresin. “With an integrated regional accelerator to act as a hub for research, training and innovation, we can catalyze the major change needed in manufacturing to achieve carbon neutrality.”

The awardees span a broad range of states and regions, reaching geographic areas that have not fully benefited from the technology boom of the past decades. The NSF Engines development awards will help organizations create connections and develop their local innovation ecosystems within two years to prepare strong proposals for becoming future NSF Engines, which will each have the opportunity to receive up to \$160 million.

Launched by NSF’s new Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships and authorized by the “CHIPS and Science Act of 2022,” the NSF Engines program uniquely harnesses the nation’s science and technology research and development enterprise and regional-level resources. NSF Engines aspire to catalyze robust partnerships to positively impact regional economies, accelerate technology development, address societal challenges, advance national competitiveness and create local, high-wage jobs.

***“This is very exciting opportunity for Auburn to participate in transformative research that will have a great impact in the region through innovation and development of new products from alternative biomass, in close partnership with regional stake holders.”***

– Dean Alavalapati





# Crooked Oaks,

a love letter from Pat Dye to Auburn University



This summer, the Auburn University Real Estate Foundation (AUREF) and the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment accepted the gift of Crooked Oaks, Pat Dye's 415-acre homestead in Notasulga. The property includes Dye's main house, a guest cabin, lodge, pavilion, gazebo, two barns and a nursery office, in addition to the Japanese maple gardens and nursery.

"He didn't develop this property for Auburn," said Nancy McDonald, Dye's longtime partner and retired nursing educator at Auburn University at Montgomery. "But he always planned that it would go to Auburn."

*"This incredible gift will have a tremendous impact on the college, our students and our academic programs."*

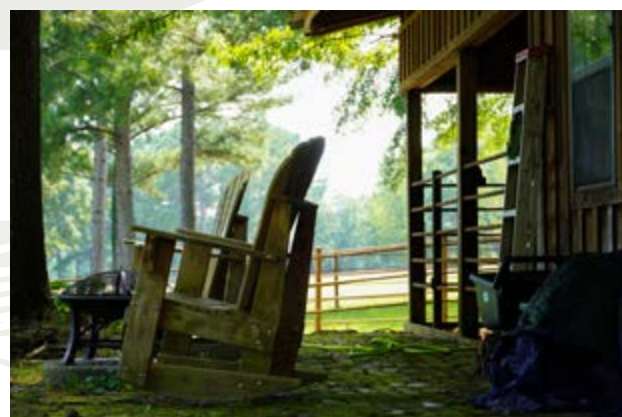
– Dean Alavalapati

"We are grateful to Coach Dye and Dr. McDonald for their generosity and for entrusting the legacy of Crooked Oaks with us."

For CFWE students, Crooked Oaks will offer another opportunity for the kind of experiential learning that is a hallmark of the college.

"We envision a practicum for Wildlife Enterprise Management students similar to what Forestry and Wildlife Ecology and Management students experience at the Solon and Martha Dixon Forestry Education Center, said Todd Steury, the college's associate dean of academic affairs.

"Students in the soon-to-be-approved Parks and Recreation Management degree will likely have their field skills practicum at the facility.



There will also likely be opportunities for students to complete internships at Crooked Oaks, learning how to manage the property."

Dye grew up on a farm in Georgia with a grassroots education in helping things grow and thrive. The caretakers of Crooked Oaks marvel at the way his love for nature and the land helped him visualize improvements he wanted. "The area where he put the Japanese maple garden was overrun with opportunistic vines and briars," said McDonald. "I couldn't see it, but he saw what he wanted and he made it beautiful."

Over the years, Dye built a lodge and pavilion for hosting events, a stable with attached living quarters, a small cabin on the pond and his own living quarters, a cabin full of whimsical touches that harness the untouched beauty of nature.

As the college develops plans for experiential learning opportunities at Crooked Oaks, the property will continue to operate as a lodging and event venue.

After Dye's passing in 2020, Megan Anderson came on board to help shepherd the eventual transition to Auburn University. She worked with guests to plan events and lodging, and to ensure an experience worthy of Dye's vision. When the occasion called for it, she would shuttle guests around the property in a golf cart, pointing out the areas of interest and personal touches Dye added with guests in mind. One of these is the outdoor wedding space.

Behind the lodge, where most overnight guests stay, is a lush lawn bordered by dark green foliage and white blooms along a split-rail fence. "Coach wanted to keep it green and white, nothing else," Anderson said. "So,

we have azaleas and hydrangeas, and it's perfect for almost any kind of wedding."

One of the last additions was a large stone fireplace at one end of the event pavilion that was completed after his passing. He thought guests might like it—and he was right. Guests love the outdoor fireplace, Anderson says, and often want to light it even in full summer.

Russell Stephens is the manager in charge of keeping the property in shape for guests and engaging with people or groups who want to be involved with maintaining Dye's legacy through Crooked Oaks. With a diverse background in real estate, farm management and wildlife recreation, Stephens feels almost like his experiences have been preparing him for his role at Crooked Oaks. He has a keen sense of responsibility to honor Dye's legacy.

"Our job is to make sure the business sustains itself so Auburn students can take advantage of this incredible gift," Stephens said.

Stephens sees their first challenge as the one of visibility: making sure people know about Crooked Oaks and think of it when looking for lodging or an event venue in the Auburn area.

*"We're in a place that serves a great purpose for the Auburn Family and it's very purposeful thing for us, a meaningful thing. This is not just a job."*

– Russell Stephens

Other discussions have involved improving flow for caterers, enclosing the pavilion and adding a conference room to make the property more attractive for corporate events.

Anderson often tells stories about Dye she's accumulated from those who knew him. "I was sorting things after I got here, and I found out that Coach was ordained," she said. "Apparently he never had occasion to put it to use, but he got himself ordained just in case there was a wedding and he needed to step in."

The stories she tells with particular relish are the ones involving his gentler side. "He was such a burly man—everyone knew him as a football coach. But he had such a passion for nature, and these Japanese maples especially."

During Dye's lifetime, his passion for Japanese maples was a prominent part of the Crooked Oaks experience. Guests can enjoy the peace of the wind through the maples in the Japanese maple garden he planted, or they can enjoy spotting the hundreds of Japanese maples scattered throughout the property.



CROOKED OAKS

Lodge · Outfitter · Venue

He personally selected every maple tree that went into the maple garden and became such an expert on Japanese maple propagation that he sometimes taught workshops in the Crooked Oaks nursery, said Anderson. McDonald often marveled at his ability to bring a tree back to good health after she'd been certain it would die.

"I don't know what he did, but those trees responded to him, and he'd bring them back to life," she said.

*"The love that he had - whether for trees or his players - had the ability to bring out the best in them."*

– Dr. Nancy McDonald





## Multi-disciplinary research team hosts workshop as part of effort to mitigate growing economic threat to pine forests

The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment, in collaboration with the Forest Health Dynamics Laboratory and the Forest Health Cooperative, hosted a multi-agency workshop in August to address a pine disease threatening Alabama forests.

The workshop's primary focus was to exchange up-to-date evaluations of brown spot needle blight as part of a \$2.1 million U.S. Forest Service grant received by a CFWE research team working to find solutions to the increasing threat to southeastern pine forests.

Brown spot needle blight is a native disease known for causing needle shed and stunted growth in many pine species. It has emerged as a significant issue in loblolly pine plantations in Alabama and elsewhere across the Southeast.

Lori Eckhardt, a CFWE professor and director of the Forest Health Cooperative, facilitated discussion among the distinguished experts who shared insights on potential disease management strategies, which varied relative to their respective states.

The workshop featured engaging presentations from esteemed faculty, graduate students and forestry professionals. Topics covered during these sessions encompassed identification, mitigation techniques, genetic diversity, environmental influences and other relevant aspects related to brown spot needle blight.



Attendees of the multi-agency Brown Spot Needle Blight Workshop are photographed with Lori Eckhardt, shown center.

## CFWE alum and associate professor, extension specialist recognized at Forest Landowner Awards



Dr. Adam Maggard, Extension Specialist and CFWE Harry E. Murphy Associate Professor.

Auburn University alum Carter Crosby and Extension Specialist and Harry E. Murphy Associate Professor Adam Maggard were recognized at the Forest Landowner Awards held by The Forest Landowners Association at its annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. These awards celebrate individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and dedication in the field of forest landownership.



Carter Crosby, an alum of the CFWE master of forest business and investment program.

Carter Crosby, a graduate of the Auburn University's College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment master's program in forest business and investment, was presented with the "Next Generation Forest Landowner of the Year" award. This recognition celebrates young forest landowners who are actively engaged in managing forestland, either through personal ownership or involvement in a family business. The award

acknowledges their stewardship practices, business acumen and commitment to preserving and enhancing forest resources.

Crosby currently serves as an area manager in Southwest Louisiana, responsible for supervising loblolly and slash plantations. His prior work experience in California, Oregon and Washington brings a fresh perspective and adds value to the daily operations at Crosby Resource Management.

In addition to Crosby's recognition, Extension Specialist and Harry E. Murphy Associate Professor Adam Maggard received the "Extension Forester of the Year" award. This recognition pays tribute to individuals who exemplify dedication to landowner education as demonstrated by efforts in presenting or publishing educational materials specifically tailored for private landowners and engaging in interactions with private landowners, both on an individual basis and in group settings.

Maggard prioritizes the instruction and promotion of multi-use management and sustainability, spearheading extension programs targeting professionals and landowners with a specific focus on the financial aspects of forest management. He also supervises the publication of the semiannual Cost and

Cost Trends for the Southern Forestry Practices survey in Forest Landowner magazine.

We are incredibly proud of Carter and Dr. Maggard for their exceptional achievements and well-deserved recognition by the Forest Landowner Association, said Dean Janaki Alavalapati.

*"Their commitment to sustainable forest management and their unwavering dedication to education and outreach serve as shining examples for future generations of forest landowners and industry professionals."*

– Dean Alavalapati

The Forest Landowner Awards recognize outstanding landowners and forestry professionals contributing to the advancement of the private forest landowner community. The awards recognize the importance of responsible forest management and highlight the exceptional work being done by individuals like Crosby and Maggard.



# Extension & Outreach

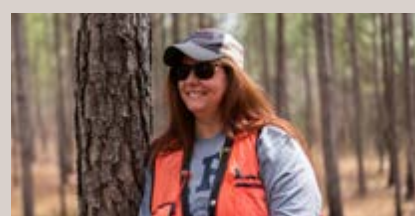
## Extension Spotlight Meet Lynn Dickinson, regional extension agent for the Central region



Lynn Dickinson is a regional extension agent specializing in forestry, wildlife and natural resources at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. In her role, she assists clients in nine centrally located Alabama counties with their forestry, wildlife and natural resources concerns. Lynn focuses her efforts around working with small landowners to help them manage their land to achieve the specific goals each has set for their property.

She is particularly interested in land management and has worked with the University of Maryland Extension to bring a new program titled "The Woods in Your Backyard" to Alabama. This program is designed with the very small landowner in mind. It teaches the importance of management plans even on just a few acres of land and encourages landowners to plant trees and utilize all the areas of their property.

Lynn holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Natural Resources from Auburn University.



## Drones becoming a powerful tool for forest management



Unmanned aerial systems (UAS), also referred to as drones, have multiple applications such as aerial photography, precision agriculture, disaster management, forest management, construction, mining and surveillance. Drones are becoming more widely used due to advancement of electronic technology, miniaturization, affordability, efficiency of cameras and sensors and improved battery power. Drones can serve as a valuable supplement to conventional data capture methods in the forest industry—providing a unique perspective and additional information that can

enhance the quality of collected data. In forestry, drones can be used for stand delineation and mapping, harvest planning, forest structure estimation and inventory, carbon inventory, damage assessments, forest disease and pest detection, stand mapping, forest fire detection and post-fire mapping. To learn more about drone applications, follow the link to read the full story by Richard Cristan, Alabama Extension specialist and assistant professor of forest operations. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forest-resiliency/drones-in-forest-management/>

# Alumni & Friends

## Two new scholarships established in the CFWE to promote diversity within forest industry

Two forest industry powerhouses have established annual scholarships within the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment to promote diversity within the forest industry. By attracting a diverse pool of highly skilled individuals, the companies seek to create an inclusive and dynamic environment that encourages innovative thinking and new perspectives.

The collaborative efforts with Auburn University aim to empower talented individuals from various backgrounds to contribute their unique experiences, knowledge and skills toward shaping a future generation of forestry professionals who are equipped to tackle the complex challenges and opportunities in sustainable forest management and conservation.

International Paper is recognized as a global leader in fiber-based packaging and pulp production. Through the transformation of renewable resources into essential

everyday products, the company endeavors to enhance the well-being of individuals, safeguard the environment and bolster its own operational efficacy.

The company is steadfast in its dedication to supporting a culture of diversity and inclusion, valuing and engaging every individual, thereby contributing to its achievements. This commitment to both workplace diversity and responsible forestry forms a fundamental aspect of the organization's sustainability initiatives, aimed at fostering a brighter future for humanity and the planet.

The Molpus Woodlands Group has also established an annual scholarship to attract a wide range of talented individuals to shape the next generation of professionals within the forestry industry.

Molpus, one of the oldest timber-related companies in the United States, operates

under a vertically integrated business structure, employing in-house experts in various fields, including accounting, business, forestry, GIS and legal. Currently overseeing over 1.7 million acres of timberland investments across 15 states, the Molpus Woodlands Group scholarship is reflective of the rich diversity of its business units.

Preference for both scholarships will be given to students who are first generation college students or those who reside in a geographically rural county or underserved area, as determined by Auburn's Office of Enrollment Management. The scholarship is awarded for a single academic year and the recipient selection process is conducted by the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Scholarship Committee. The eligibility of the chosen recipient is subject to review by the Office of University Scholarships.



*"The collaborations with International Paper and Molpus Woodlands Group reflects our shared commitment to advancing diversity, innovation and sustainable practices within the forest industry, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive future for all."*

– Dean Alavalapati



Auburn forestry graduate Dana Little honored with Outstanding Alumni Award



Dana Carl Little of Columbia, Miss., has been recognized as the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Alumni Award in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. The award recognizes Little’s outstanding contributions to the forestry industry and longtime service to Mississippi forest landowners through his time with the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA). The Outstanding Alumni Award further recognizes graduates who demonstrate exemplary character and integrity.

A 1979 graduate of Auburn's forestry program, Little retired from Weyerhaeuser as its Hattiesburg, Miss., area manager after more than 20 years with the company and 43 years as a professional forester. He received the Weyerhaeuser Truly Great Award in 2019, and the Weyerhaeuser Diversity Employee of the Year Award in 2015. Before joining Weyerhaeuser, Little was a registered forester in the state of Mississippi for an additional 22 years.

Little found forestry when he was looking for a career that didn’t require him to be behind a desk all day. His unlikely source of inspiration: the park ranger in the cartoon “Yogi Bear.”

“Growing up in Birmingham, I didn’t have outdoor life experience like hunting and fishing,” Little said. “I had never even seen a log truck.” However, he thought even if he spent his days sitting in a fire tower looking over the forest, he’d prefer it to the view from behind a desk.

His high school counselor was surprised when he went to talk to her about becoming a forester. “Understanding the science and art of forestry was almost an unknown in the Black community,” Little said. “There wasn’t really a Black footprint in that profession.” Unfazed, Little blazed his own trail. He enrolled in the two-year pre-forestry program at Tuskegee University and later transferred to Auburn’s forestry program.

“The educational experience at Auburn was second to none,” Little said. The classroom knowledge was only part of what he values about his Auburn University education. “My courses helped me develop interpersonal skills so that I could walk into the professional arena and be comfortable.”

He also credits his time at Auburn with a spirit of volunteerism that has been important to him throughout his career. Little has served at the state, county and local level with the Mississippi Forestry Association, or MFA.

He has served three terms as an executive board member, one term as state president, and has served as president of the Copiah and Marion Country Forestry Association. In 2019, Little was recognized by the MFA as the recipient of the Meritorious Service to Forestry Award.

*“I have a responsibility to share what I know. And the way you share it is to involve yourself in public service and make sure you are passing on information so that it benefits humanity.”*

– Dana Little '79

Among numerous other professional activities and awards, Little is also a dedicated family man and active community member. He serves as a deacon, assistant superintendent of Sunday school and choir member at John the Baptist M.B. Church, and he was a Parent Advisory Council member for the Hazlehurst Public School System and Mississippi Board of Education for multiple terms.

“I have known Dana Little since we met at Auburn in the late 1970’s,” said Kenneth Day '81. In his nomination letter, Day wrote, “Mr. Little is forward-thinking, extremely dependable, has an outstanding work ethic and always displays a pleasant, professional disposition. I hold him in very high regard.”

Little has given both time and financial support to the CFWE, helping to establish and endow the African American Alumni

Endowed Scholarship in the college in 2015. He was recognized for his career achievement and efforts in 2016 during the Auburn University Black Alumni Weekend.

*“Dana has had an incredible career marked by generous service to help further public understanding of forestry. His efforts to enhance our college, especially with regard to underserved communities, have made a tremendous impact.”*

– Dean Alavalapati

Little has also helped with various recruitment events for the college and made time to mentor young professionals at Weyerhaeuser by serving on the intern recruitment team and helping to interview prospective interns.

“I’ve always had a strong passion to give back to students to help them develop their careers,” Little said. “I think that’s another important thing that Auburn University graduates can do and should do in terms of helping to bring along the next generation of successful professionals.”



Lanier J. Edwards establishes endowed scholarship

Lanier J. Edwards of Eufaula, Ala., has established the Lanier J. Edwards Family Endowed Scholarship in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

Edwards was born in Ball Ground, Ga., on his family’s farm, which was later recognized by the state of Georgia for its contribution to state history as a working farm in operation more than 100 years. Love for the land was a lesson Edwards learned early, and his career in the forest industry has spanned multiple ventures and two countries.

Edwards earned associate and bachelor’s degrees from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., and the University of Georgia, respectively, and ran a successful wood supplier company, Timberland Harvesters, LLC, for more than 30 years. Alongside this company, he grew a trucking company in partnership with his

brother, Kenneth Edwards, into a fleet of more than 200 trucks.

Throughout his career, Edwards used his knowledge of forest management to purchase land, improve it and merchandise it for the final owner. He has purchased over 520,000 acres of land in the Southeast and one tract of land in Canada. Edwards is proud of a lifetime dedicated to being a good steward of the land and developing wildlife habitats for his favorite animals, such as quail, turkey and deer. Of all the pieces of land he has owned, his favorite tract is his second home at Holly Hill Plantation in Albany, Ga. He enjoys entertaining family and friends there by hunting quail and telling stories.

Edwards is also well known for his passionate support for University of Georgia, or UGA, football. A student feature from 2015 showcased Edwards’

game-day home brimming with memorabilia, fan art and football team merchandise.

Edwards chose to give back to Auburn University in recognition of the many opportunities the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment has given him over the years to meet others in outdoors careers. “The state of Alabama has so many great people in the profession of forest management, and I’m blessed to have worked my entire career in this state,” he said.

*“I hope this scholarship will open the door to the next generation of forest managers so that they too can make anything out of life that they choose.”*

– Lanier J. Edwards

The Lanier J. Edwards Family Scholarships will be available to any student enrolled in the

College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment who demonstrates good academic standing as well as financial need. Each scholarship is for one academic year, but recipients may be considered in subsequent years.

“Lanier Edwards knows the difference a scholarship like this can make in the entire trajectory of a student’s life,” said Dean Janaki Alavalapati. “The state of Alabama is fortunate to count him among its citizens, and Auburn University is grateful for his generous gift.”



Members:

ACEOA, Inc.  
African Safari Club of Florida Conservation Fund, Inc.  
AL Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Alabama Ag Credit, FLCA  
Alabama Chapter ACF  
Alabama Farm Credit  
Alabama Forestry Association  
Alabama Forestry Foundation  
Alabama Forests Forever Foundation  
Alabama Power Company  
Alabama TREASURE Forest Association  
Alabama Wildlife Federation, Inc.  
Dr. and Mrs. Janaki R.R. Alavalapati  
ALFA Foundation  
Dr. Brenda Maudine Allen '97  
American Endowment Foundation  
Dr. Rian Anglin  
Arborgen, Inc.  
AuburnBank  
Auburn-Opelika Tourism  
Dr. Orville Euing Bach, Jr. '69  
Mr. William Barlow  
Mr. James Manning Bates '97  
Mr. Shawn Battison  
Rachel Baughman  
BB Partners LP  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Jeffrey Bentley  
Mr. Walker Reynolds Bickerstaff '70  
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Cooper Black III  
Mr. Chris Blankenship '00  
Mr. Christopher W. Bodine  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lewis Boutwell  
Ms. Starr Lynn Boykin '80  
Bradley Murphy Forestry  
Mr. Andrew Brannon  
Mrs. Robyn L. Bridges  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Brinker  
Naomi Brooks  
Mr. Dan Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan P. Bruce  
Burgin Timberland Management, LLC  
Mr. Robert F. Burgin III '81  
Mr. John Burrell  
Mr. Eugene B. Butler  
Campbell Global  
Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Carter III  
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Chappelka III  
Charles Barkley Foundation  
Charley Walker Foundation  
Chick-Fil-A of Village Mall  
Mr. Charlie Chitty  
Mr. T.R. Clark  
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wayne Cole  
Mrs. Denise Michelle Cole '10  
Rhonda Conrad  
Mr. and Mrs. David Richard Conway, Jr.  
Coon Creek Club  
Mrs. Nell Jordan Copeland '62  
Mrs. Heather Vann Crozier '98  
CSP Technologies, Inc.  
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation  
Dr. Beverly W. Danley '76  
Col (Ret) James W. Danley  
Ms. Alesia M. Davenport  
Mr. Kenneth Day '81  
Delaney Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. Michael Ross Delaney '03  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Dixon, Jr.

Mr. Kevin Dodd  
Mr. Dave Donaldson '95  
Drummond Company, Inc.  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Mr. Robert Waren Dumas '76  
Mr. Arthur C. Dyas '73  
EBSCO Industries, Inc.  
Mr. Lanier Edwards  
F. Allen & Louise K. Turner Charitable Foundation  
Ms. Erin Fields  
Mr. Steve R. Forehand '78  
Ann Forney  
Mrs. Shelby Freise  
Mr. Jody Fuller  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Gallagher  
Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.  
Mr. Eric Daniel Gee '94  
Dr. and Mrs. George Edward Gibson, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. David Benjamin Giles  
Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Ray Glover  
Mr. Timothy Lee Gothard '93  
Mr. William M. Green '14  
Mr. Steve Greep  
Mrs. Mary Kay Greer  
Mr. Thomas Lisle Guffin '73  
Mr. Glenn H. Guthrie '62  
Kristy Guthrie  
Dr. and Mrs. John E. Hackman  
Mr. Richard W. Hall '95  
Hancock Forest Management, Inc.  
Mr. John Anderson Harp  
Ann Harper  
Harrigan Lumber Co, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Patrick Harrigan  
Mr. and Mrs. William Dwight Harrigan III  
Mr. Rodney M. Havens '80  
Mr. David B. Helm '84  
Henson and Kirkland Charitable Foundation  
Mr. Arthur C. Herndon II  
Mrs. Magdalene P. Herring  
High Adventure Company  
Mr. and Mrs. William Webster Hindman  
Mr. Alex Hinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Franklin Hoerlein  
Mrs. Margaret Elaine Holler  
Dr. Mary A. Hooten and Mr. William Russell Hooten  
Mr. Kevin Hudson '98  
Dr. and Mrs. David Hyink  
International Paper  
Inventive Outdoors LLC  
Mr. Chris Van Isaacson '80  
Ms. Michelle A. Isenberg  
Jasper Lumber Company  
Mr. Alan H. Jaye '81  
Mr. Paul Jeffreys  
Mr. Rhett E. Johnson, Jr.  
Mrs. Belinda Jane Jones  
Mrs. Kay Hathaway Jones '62  
Mr. Phillip Jones  
Dr. Robert H. Jones and Dr. Jeryl Christley Jones  
Mr. Mike Jordan  
Ms. Danielle Judd  
Dr. Viena Louise Katainen  
Gwen Kelley  
Dr. Crystal A. Kelley  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Michael Kelly  
Ketchum Land & Timber, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Earl Ketchum, Jr.  
KIA Motors Manufacturing  
Mr. James Jackson King, Jr. '80  
Mr. Joey King  
Dr. Emily B. Kling '03  
Mr. Mel Koller  
Kykenkee, Inc.  
Mr. Thomas T. Lamberth '75  
Mr. John Harry Lange III '97  
Mr. Bruce Lanier  
Larson & McGowin, Inc.  
Mr. Hugh Cannon Lawley '95  
Lee County Rotary Club

Mr. Curt W. LeVan '80  
Anne Leyva  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lambert Lindley  
Mr. Wayne Little '83  
Mr. Dana Carl Little '79  
Dr. and Ms. Mark Lowe  
Long Leaf Lumber Company  
Maj Brandon James Loomis '16  
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation  
Mr. James Robert Lowe '59  
Mr. Brian Luoma  
Ms. Hebe Lutz  
M C Dixon Lumber Company, Inc.  
Made Goods  
Mr. and Mrs. Lars Magnusson  
Mr. Alan Antonio Maio '93  
Mrs. Alice Johnson Mallory '66  
Manulife Investment Management  
Mr. James William Martin '64  
Matthews Forest Services, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Hooper Weakley Matthews III  
Mr. Alexander McCall '93  
Kathleen McCollum  
Mr. William David McEwen  
Frank L. "Trippy" McGuire  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilkinson McNeel III  
Mrs. Lisa H. Mende  
Mr. Peter C. Mertz  
Ms. Judy Lane Messer  
Mr. and Mrs. Lovick Pierce Miller  
Mr. Todd Winfield Miller '88  
Mr. Robert Milstead  
MIM Forest Management, Inc.  
Mrs. Amanda Mize  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moore  
Dr. Scott Morley  
Mr. Emory W. Mosley, Jr. '72  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Louis Moultrie '79  
Mr. Richard Mullen  
Dr. Gary R. Mullen  
Ms. Stephanie Mullins  
Mr. Claude Nathan Nall '60  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Natural Resource Consultants, LLC  
NAVCO Foundation  
Mr. Jim Ni  
Mrs. Joanna E. Nichols  
Norfolk Southern Corp  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Norman  
North Florida Woodlands, Inc.  
Oser Forestry Services  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lewis Oser  
Osmose  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Wayne Pearce  
Mrs. Sue Atchison Pearson '49  
Mr. Willard W. Peebles  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Peters  
Mr. James Emil Pittman, Jr. '84  
Dr. and Mrs. Brent Andrew Ponce  
Mr. Jason Pratt  
PrintPack  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dean Pylant III  
Mr. Joshua Raglin  
Regions Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. William George Reich  
Resource Management Service  
Rex Lumber Company  
RL Investment Property LLC  
Mr. Joe Dalton Roberson '88  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Earl Roberts  
Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd Robinson  
Mrs. Elizabeth Herring Rogers  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Rooke, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Conrad Rosser  
Russell Lands, Inc.  
Safari Club International  
Safari Club International -Corporate  
Mr. Josh L. Sandt, Jr.  
Mrs. Caroline Sasnett  
Dr. William I. Sauser, Jr. and Dr. Lane D. Sauser  
Mr. Kevin Brian Savoy '91  
Mr. Thomas Milton Schell '82

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Schwarzauer, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Sechrist  
Ms. Emily S. Sexton '05  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Preston Sharp  
Sing Properties, LLC  
Singleton Family Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Austin Singleton  
Mr. Thomas Gray Skipper '94  
Mr. and Mrs. John Prentiss Smith, Jr.  
Dr. Mark D. Smith  
Ms. Pennie Lawson Smith  
Dr. Wayne H. Smith and Dr. Mitzi C. Austin  
Southeastern Land Group  
Southeastern Natural Resources  
Southern Company Services  
Mr. Carl Franklin Southern '76  
Stallworth Land Company  
Mr. Clinton Stanton  
Ms. Tiffanie Starr  
Stella-Jones Corporation  
Mr. H. Christoph Stuhlinger '80  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick L. Stukes  
Sunshine Pediatrics LLC  
Mr. Robert L. Sutton  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Lewis Sweeten  
Mr. Charles Franklin Sykes '92  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Melvin Tarver  
Mr. Charles L. Taylor '06  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Taylor  
Team Ag Marketing, LLC  
Mr. William R. Terry '76  
Mr. Dwayne Hulon Tew '97  
The Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation  
The Vick Family Fund  
The Westervelt Company  
Mr. Douglas Thiessen  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Emmett Thompson  
Dr. and Mrs. Emmett Thompson  
Ms. Juli Thompson  
Timber Products Inspection, Inc.  
Toyota Motor Engineering & Mfg. North America, Inc.  
Mr. Mike Tracy  
Mr. Oscar G. Traczewitz II '70  
Turkeys For Tomorrow  
Susan Wilcox Turner  
Mrs. Wendy Tysinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Noll A. Van Cleave Jr.  
Mr. Noll A. Van Cleave Jr.  
Mr. Bennie F. Vinson, Jr. '74  
W. A. Freise & Sons Timber & Land Company, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Wadsworth  
Mr. Michael Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. William Forrest Walker  
Mr. David Walker '92  
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Ashley Walley  
Dr. and Mrs. William Walley  
Walstad Investment Group, LLC  
Mr. Kenneth Brian Watts '12  
Weiler Equipment  
Megan Weiler  
Dr. John Charles Welker '70  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Westervelt Foundation  
WestRock  
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Guy Whitley, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Alan Whitley  
Mr. John C. Wild  
Willann LLC  
Mr. Jeremy L. Williams '04  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Williams  
Dr. W. Wes Williams and Ms. Sara I. Doornbos  
Mr. Larry D. Williamson '61  
Mrs. Cherie Leist Woodard '82  
Mr. John Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Wright  
Mrs. Tracy Young-Brown '93  
Ziebach & Webb Timber Co  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmo D. Ziebach  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Douglas Ziebach, Jr.



# Alumni & Friends



## Members:

Mr. Thomas D Bowen III '11  
Mr. Jameson S. Clark '10  
Mr. Samuel C. Colville '18  
Mr. Scott Edward Corley '10  
Mr. Brandon Keith Craft '15  
Mr. Chase Lee Dixon '11  
Mr. Eric Lee Dooley '18  
Mr. William Dunnam '20  
*Vice President*  
Mr. Cedric O. Ellis '17  
Mr. Adam T. Frame '09  
Mr. William M. Green '14

Ms. Hannah E. Gunter '13  
Mr. George S. Hazard III '08  
Mr. Michael W. Heatherly '08  
*President*  
Mr. Cody V. Krause '19  
Mr. Kristopher Watson Lewis '10  
Mr. William Thomas Liner '14  
Maj Brandon James Loomis '16  
Mr. Eddie L. Love '15  
Ms. Faith H. Lyles '16  
Mr. Lincoln A. McClearen '17  
Mr. Russell Cary Miller '11

Mr. Sebastian Drake Rodriguez '15  
Mr. James Benjamin Simms '11  
Mr. Charlie Smith '12  
Mr. Sam Tate '15  
Mr. Michael Tyler Travis '08  
Mr. Kenneth Brian Watts '12  
Mrs. Emma Vaters Zimmer '18

*If you're within 15 years of graduating from the CFWE, consider joining or renewing your membership today. Your annual membership will fund the Compass Circle/Bashinsky Ever Auburn Scholarship or an area of your choice. Scan the QR code to be directed to the Compass Circle webpage to learn more.*



## Experiential learning gained at the Dixon Center prepares students with career-ready skills

For 6-9 weeks each summer, students in CFWE's Forestry and Wildlife programs are engaged in an unparalleled program at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center near Andalusia, AL. From navigation and surveying to data collection and analysis, our students master a wide range of practical skills crucial for their career success through the CFWE Summer Practicum.



*"Practicum gave me an opportunity to participate in job field scenarios that I otherwise would not have been privy to. I've made connections with people working for the state and other places. I put my knowledge I've gather for the past 3 years to the test in the field. The experience I have gained just from those 6 weeks really put into perspective what I plan to do for the future of my career."*  
– Kendall Preston, Wildlife

# Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center