**Upcoming Events**

Forest Stewardship Workshop/Hike: Tree/Plant Identification for Landowners  
May 19, 2009; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Eastern Time;  
Morningside Nature Center, 3540 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32641  
Join Alan Long for a plant identification review! This program will focus mostly on sandhill and flatwoods species, identifying live specimens in the field. We will also learn about how some of these plants are used by wildlife and/or the role they play within the larger plant community and habitat. This will be a walking event so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Ticks will be plentiful so long pants and sleeveless shirts are strongly suggested. A hat and sunscreen are always a good idea too. A water cooler is on site – bring a water bottle if you wish to take water to the field. Tick repellant will be available, but if you prefer a particular brand bring it.

Geomatics Alumni Reception at the 2009 Florida Surveying and Mapping Society Annual Conference  
Conference Dates: August 19 – 23, Reception Time TBA  
Orlando, Florida  
Want to catch up with a few friends from school? Please join us for our alumni gathering for food and updates from the program.  
For a plant identification review! This program will focus mostly on sandhill and flatwoods species, identifying live specimens in the field. We will also learn about how some of these plants are used by wildlife and/or the role they play within the larger plant community and habitat. This will be a walking event so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Ticks will be plentiful so long pants and sleeveless shirts are strongly suggested. A hat and sunscreen are always a good idea too. A water cooler is on site – bring a water bottle if you wish to take water to the field. Tick repellant will be available, but if you prefer a particular brand bring it.

SFRC Alumni Reception at the Society of American Foresters National Convention  
October 1, 2009; 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Eastern Time  
Walt Disney World Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, Florida  
This year the SAF National Convention is being held in our own back yard. Please join your fellow alumni, faculty, and staff from the School for an evening of food, friends and updates from the School. More information coming soon.

**Global Climate Change**  
At the SRFC Austin Cary Memorial Forest to assess forested ecosystems effect on CO2 levels.

Global carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration has increased over 30% since the world began using fossil fuels, resulting in the largest human-caused alteration of atmospheric chemistry in history. National governments worldwide are committed to mitigating rising atmospheric CO2 through programs such as cap-and-trade, designed to reduce fossil fuel CO2 emissions, and enhance bio- logical uptake and storage of CO2 by natural and managed ecosystems. Forest ecosystems will be critical to these carbon offset programs; for example, annual uptake and storage of CO2 by forests already offsets 11 to 16% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and greater potential for more carbon mitigation exists. Agricultural production systems are currently a net CO2 source in the United States, but existing and emerging technologies can be applied to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of our food and fiber production systems. The Carbon Resources Science Center (http://carboncenter.ifas.ufl.edu) was recently funded by the IFAS Dean for Research and SFRC to provide the science necessary to develop and evaluate forestry and agricultural technologies to reduce the rise in atmospheric CO2 concentration.

**Non-Profit Org**  
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The School of Forest Resources and Conservation Newsletter is published to inform alumni and friends. Comments and information to share should be directed to the main office: phone (352)846-0850, fax (352)392-1707, email sfrc@ifas.ufl.edu. Visit our website at www.srfc.ufl.edu
The SFRC has approximately 140 undergraduates studying one of three majors: Forest Resources & Conservation, Geomatics, or Natural Resource Conservation. The SFRC has approximately 150 graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees.

Major Revision

The Natural Resource Conservation (NRC) major has thrived since its origin in the 1970’s. The degree has served over 1000 graduates who now have successful, varied careers. Students have the unique opportunity to flexibly tailor the degree to their particular interests under expert faculty guidance.

The landscape of natural resources and conservation is changing at the University of Florida and across the state and nation. Natural resource challenges are diversifying as growing human populations have an increasing impact at local and global scales. The basic elements of our toolbox have also expanded with the advent of new technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). In addition, the demographics of NRC students have changed as the degree is now available off-campus at the West Florida and Gulf Coast Research and Education Centers. The recent merger of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences with the SFRC provides the opportunity to grow in the area of water resources.

In response to these changes, Director Tim White (SFRC) and Chair John Hayes (Wildlife Ecology and Conservation-WECC) appointed a committee of nine faculty from both units to examine the NRC degree. The team has discussed who is served by the NRC major, what careers NRC majors pursue, and guiding principles as we revise the NRC curriculum. This process is on-going but will be completed at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. We welcome your thoughts on the topic.

Fulfilling Our Mission... Research

The SFRC has more than 50 faculty who are awarded approximately $8 million annually for agricultural research, basic research, and extension programs. The SFRC is committed to making insurance, fisheries, and aquatics research, and forest resources and conservation.

Breeding Method for Puffer Fish

SFRC researchers Craig Watson, Amy Wood and Scott Graves at UF’s Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin have created the first conventional breeding method for spotted green puffer fish that could benefit the tropical fish industry and genetics research.

The program shows the fish could only be collected from the wild; as a result supplies were often limited and the fish could not be studied by geneticists because only juveniles and adults were available.

Online Prescribed Fire Training

Leda Kobziar and Alan Long have partnered with the Prescribed Fire Training Center in Tallahassee to offer a course to working professionals about the impacts and use of prescribed fire in the South. Fire management professionals from around the country are gaining hands-on experience while completing online course and workshop available through the SFRC for college credit. This course is the first in a new program being offered through the SFRC geared towards federal employees in the Interagency Fire Program who are required to have a bachelor’s degree or to obtain 24 credit hours from a university to manage and analysis. This certificate has the potential to dramatically vary the available courses to employees to be more readily accessible to students.

Appreciation for our Supporters

Without the support of friends we could not maintain our level of academic excellence.

Thank you to the following for their contribution to the School’s Unrestricted Fund: Timothy La Belle ($77), Roger (61) & Janie Bollinger, Kevin & Susan (82) Kett, Janet (74) & Lowell Hinchee, William Mackay ($7), Philip Moses & Company, Inc., Norma Homan, William Bennett ($54), Till & Kathleen Lybass, Bill Harrell (‘00), Paul (‘67) & Carole Mott, Mark (‘74) & Anne Miller, Donna Legare (‘75), and Joseph Walthall (‘00).

Thank you to Paul Zajicek for his support of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin. Thank you to Wayne Smith & Mitta Austin for their support of the Wayne Smith Student Leadership Fund and the John Gray Endowment for Forest Resources and Conservation. Thank you to Jim & Joh-Nana Lybass for their support of the 2009 James H. & Joh-Nana Lybass Scholarships. Thank you to Patrick Thomas and Anheuser-Busch for their support of Tom-Frazier’s research. Thank you to the Florida Forestry Association’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative for their support of Project Learning Tree.

Students

Spring 2009 Scholarships and Awards Recipients

Spring 2009 Undergraduate Scholarship:

> Geomatics Initiative Scholarship: Kenneth Bryant, Katie Correll, Chad Plant, William Pyle, Phillip Smith, Andrew Smith, Ryan Weaver, Kent Willingham, David Lechner, William Dueease and Sarah Smith
> Florida Surveying and Mapping Scholarship: Kimberly Atkinson, Charles Basley, Michael Larson, Tyler Tracz, Matthew Barkdale, Jonathan Flowers, Nick Klimas and Jacob Schaффner
> Leigh A. Walker Memorial Scholarship: Justin Phillips
> Louis F. Conde Memorial Scholarship: Chelsea Heatherington
> William James Meneur, Jr. Scholarship: Benjamin Gifford
> Newins-Ziegler Scholarship: Elizabeth Ramirez
> Forest Landowners Foundation Scholarship: Derek Blackmon
> James H. & Joh-Nana Lybass Scholarship: Mary Hudson, Joshua Havird and Leland Taylor
> J.B. Adams Memorial Scholarship: Dana Bacoom, Lara Colley, Shannon McGee, Sparkle Malone, Allen Milligan and Eli Bachelor
> Miriam Wyman and Dana Bacoom were selected as the Outstanding Teaching Assistants of the year by the seniors and junior, respectively.

The SAF Rising Senior Scholarship was awarded to Mary McKenzie. The SAF Graduating Senior Award went to Dana Bacoom. Lara Colley was awarded the 2009 Xi Sigma Pi Regional Scholarship.

Faculty and Staff

Congratulations to Jenny Seitz and Larry Korchak (left) for being recognized as the Outstanding SFRC Staff Members of the year.

Outstanding Faculty Members for 2009:

> Geomatics: Katie Correll
> Forest Resources & Conservation: Dana Bacoom
> Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences: Master’s of Science: Felipe Carvalho Advisor: Debra Murie Ph.D.: Jennifer Lazzarino Advisor: Dan Canfield
> IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award for her excellent work as a program assistant.
> Marie Meldrum was awarded an IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award for her excellent work as a program assistant.

Don Rockwood retired from the School in February 2009 after 35 years of service (although he can still be found working in his office) and has been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor.

Give a Gift!

Your support can be used for student scholarships and travel to conferences, purchasing of new equipment to keep us up-to-date, as well as many other uses.

Send gifts directly to:
School of Forest Resources & Conservation
PO Box 110410
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Make checks payable to the University of Florida Foundation and designate the SFRC.

Thank you!