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The MSU Student Chapter, Society of American Foresters

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SAF's STUDENT CHAPTER EXTENDS FORESTRY CLASSROOMS

By Steven H. Bullard
Mississippi State University, SAF Faculty Representative

The School of Forest Resources at Mississippi State University is committed to excellence in teaching, service, and research. Yet, forestry schools alone cannot produce foresters who have all the complex knowledge and skills they will need as professionals. Commitment to a profession means a lifetime of learning and continuing education.

Forestry students at Mississippi State are encouraged to participate in organizations that strengthen their sense of professionalism and point them toward continued development after graduation.

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is one of those organizations. Forestry students who take part in its activities are aided in developing communication and leadership skills that are difficult to learn in a classroom. Forestry is not just trees. Forestry students deal with the biology of the forest and the economics of timber. They learn how to use these tools to achieve a forest landowner's objectives. Foresters not only make decisions—they must also effectively communicate their decisions.

Ongoing projects of MSU's Student Chapter include:

Foresters' Fund—A national campaign sponsored by SAF to promote professional forestry through entertainment and news media.

The goal of MSU's Student Chapter is to contribute \$1,000. Nine hundred twenty has been given in the past two years. A recent donation was earned by raffling a Browning shotgun at the Mississippi SAF annual meeting,

where Gene Gray, national SAF Director of Member Services and Development, recognized MSU's Student Chapter as the most active in the nation.

SAF National Convention

Student Chapter members raised funds toward expenses of MSU representatives who attended the 1986 convention in Birmingham, AL. Fundraising projects included helping with MSU concerts, conducting raffles, collecting tree seed, and catering local SAF Loblolly Chapter meetings.

MFA Functions

Seventeen forestry students attended MFA's 1985 annual meeting in Jackson. Raffles were held at the 1984 and 1985 meetings, and \$375 was contributed to MFA by the Student Chapter. SAF student members have also helped MFA's FFA Forestry Committee with the Future Farmers of America annual state forestry contests.

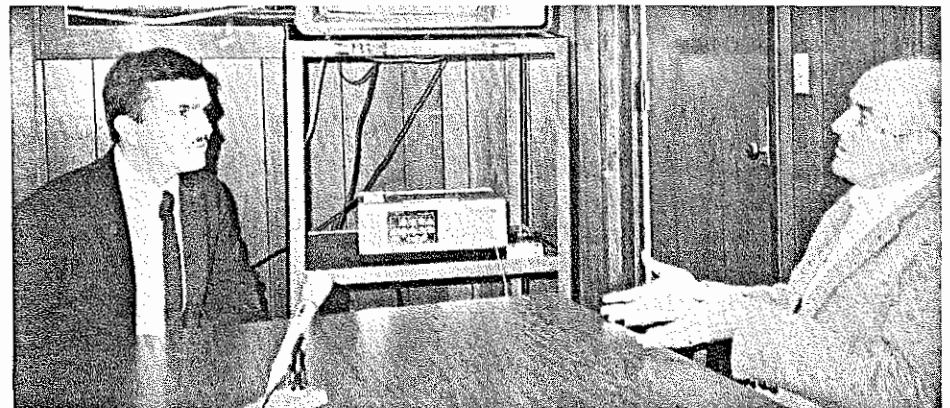
Programs for Students

Recent seminars took up use of herbicides in forestry, held by Dr. Frank Kidd of Dow Chemical Company, and financial returns from herbicides, by Peter Thomas of duPont.



MSU students Stan Arrington, center, and Jeff Bein, right, greet a visitor to the SAF Student Chapter exhibit at MFA's annual meeting.

Simulated interviews were videotaped and played back to acquaint students with real life situations. Interviewers, who came to the campus, were Tom Wood and John Lee from Westvaco; Beryl Toler, Packaging Corporation of America; Bill Burks, James River Corporation; and Don Bell, consulting forester and former



Don Bell, right, consulting forester, conducts a mock interview on campus with MSU student Marty Kilpatrick.

chairman of Mississippi SAF.

Social Outings

Cookouts at Dorman Lodge and programs with other student groups promote comradeship among all departments of the School of Forest Resources —wildlife and fisheries, forestry, and wood science and technology.

Invaluable financial assistance on the Chapter's projects has been provided by Forestry Suppliers, Inc.; Revell Hardware Company, Inc.; Lynn Prine, Southern Resource Services, Inc.; Louisiana-Pacific Corporation; Weyerhaeuser Company; Longleaf Timber Company; Scotch Plywood Company; Scott

Paper Company; and Mississippi SAF.

SAF's Student Chapter at MSU provides the initial stimulus for continuing career development and education in forestry. It is working with MFA and the Mississippi Chapter of SAF in the state's vital "growing" profession. ■

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN STATE 4-H FORESTRY CONTEST

Panola County's 4-H Forestry team took first place at the State 4-H Congress held at Mississippi State University. The winning team from Batesville included Paul Seay, David Bledsoe, Barry White, and Larry White, with Panola County Forester Arty Tapp as

coach. They represented Mississippi at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational in Weston, West Virginia, on July 27-31, 1986, placing ninth. Second place winner was Lowndes County's team, with Lee County in third place. 42 4-H'ers competed in Forestry

at the state level, out of hundreds taking part at county and district contests. Areas covered included tree identification, forestry knowledge, and tree measurement. Sponsorship of 4-H Forestry is one of Mississippi Forestry Association's programs. ■



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