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The Leader has a new format!

As you probably noticed, beginning with our April *Leader*, AgSouth Farm Credit is now accepting advertising from members and other vendors who have services or products of interest to our patrons. In addition to providing product information, these ads reduce our cost of publication. Another new feature is AgSouth's Marketplace, which features items wanted and listed for sale on our web site by AgSouth members. If you have any land or equipment to sell, list your ad FREE with AgSouth. And if you're looking for real estate or equipment to purchase, the AgSouth *Leader* and website are the perfect places to advertise.

We hope you find these new features useful.

*It pays to do business
with AgSouth Farm Credit!*

Total distributions to our members to date exceed

\$88 MILLION!

At AgSouth Farm Credit,
we send our profits to YOUR Street, not Wall Street!



Year-Ended	Paid in Cash	Allocated Surplus	Allocated Surplus Revolved to Date (Cash)	Total Patronage
PCA 1988	\$ 193,700	\$ 778,300		\$ 972,000
PCA 1989	\$ 599,200	\$ 1,398,200		\$ 1,997,400
PCA 1990	\$ 452,000	\$ 1,287,400		\$ 1,739,400
ACA 1991	\$ 1,287,000	\$ 3,444,000		\$ 4,731,000
ACA 1992	\$ 2,105,400	\$ 5,472,000		\$ 7,577,400
ACA 1993	\$ 1,935,200	\$ 5,118,700	\$ 778,300	\$ 7,053,900
ACA 1994	\$ 2,272,000	\$ 5,301,100	\$ 1,398,200	\$ 7,573,100
ACA 1995	\$ 2,338,000	\$ 5,456,400	\$ 1,287,400	\$ 7,794,400
ACA 1996	\$ 2,242,000	\$ 5,233,000	\$ 3,444,000	\$ 7,475,000
ACA 1997	\$ 2,368,700	\$ 5,498,800	\$ 5,472,000	\$ 7,867,500
ACA 1998	\$ 2,244,600	\$ 5,237,200	\$ 5,118,700	\$ 7,481,800
ACA 1999	\$ 2,130,100	\$ 4,970,200	\$ 5,301,100	\$ 7,100,300
ACA 2000	\$ 2,780,500	\$ 6,487,700	\$ 5,456,400	\$ 9,268,200
ACA 2001	\$ 3,092,000	\$ 7,215,000	\$ 5,233,000	\$ 10,307,000
Total Patronage Distributed to our Members Since 1988				\$88,938,400

Cover photo:
America's Symbol,
the Bald Eagle -
photo by John R. Clark

Annual 4-H Congress Held



The Walton Co. Wildlife Judging Team: (front l to r:) Glen Blair, CEPA; Lewis Byrne; Lana Heidel; Mollie Rice; Melissa Jamison; Ray Jordan (back l to r:) Jim McCartney, Coach; and John Burch, AgSouth Farm Credit vice president.



Jed Evans (3rd from left) won the individual public speaking competition. (From the left:) Kathy Baldwin, CEA; Dana Burch, Bulloch County CEA; Jed Evans; John Burch, AgSouth Farm Credit vice president; Ray Jordan and Mary Ellen Blackburn, specialist.

By: John Burch, vice president

The annual gathering of Georgia 4-H project competitors was held May 2002. The event, called the 4-H State Congress, is a forum for the most accomplished 4-H participants in their chosen projects. Projects cover a wide range of subjects, including workforce preparation, individual talent and shooting sports, to name just a few. State Congress participants come from all over Georgia each year to represent their districts. Each participant placed first in his or her district project competition.

The competition is held during the first two days, and winners are celebrated at a concluding banquet and awards ceremony on

the final evening. State Congress winners receive coveted scholarship awards given by project sponsors.

The Georgia Farm Credit Associations jointly sponsored three competitions in this year's event. In the individual public speaking project, the Georgia Farm Credit Associations awarded a scholarship to winner Jed Evans of

Bleckley County. In team competitions, Georgia Farm Credit Associations sponsored both the land judging and wildlife competitions. Team winners for these projects represented Dade and Walton Counties, respectively. Congratulations from AgSouth Farm Credit to these 4-H participants and State Congress winners. ❖

LEADER is published quarterly for stockholders, directors and friends of AgSouth

The shareholders' investment in the association is materially affected by the financial condition and results of operations of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank. Copies of AgFirst's quarterly and annual financial reports to shareholders are available free of charge at www.agfirst.com, or by writing to AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, Financial Reporting Department, P.O. Box 1499, Columbia, SC 29202-1499.

Address changes, questions, comments or requests for copies of our financial reports should be directed to AgSouth Farm Credit by writing Carolyn Jones or calling 912-764-9091. Our quarterly financial report can also be obtained on our website: www.agsouthfc.com. Contact us by email: jdouglas@agsouthfc.com.

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 Social Security # _____ Salary: Commission Self-employed (circle one)
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 Address: _____ Do you: Own or Rent (circle one)
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 State: _____ Home Phone: _____
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 Is property to secure the loan located in city limits?: _____ If property to secure the loan is in the city limits, what city?: _____
 Cash Available for Closing _____ Minimum Monthly Installment Pmts: _____
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 401K: _____ Personal: _____
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 Total available: _____ Total Debts: _____

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Signature

Date

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5.500%	10.86	8.18	6.68	6.15	5.66
6.000%	11.11	8.44	7.17	6.45	6.00
6.500%	11.36	8.72	7.46	6.76	6.33
7.000%	11.62	8.99	7.76	7.07	6.66
7.500%	11.88	9.28	8.06	7.39	7.00
8.000%	12.14	9.56	8.37	7.72	7.34
8.500%	12.40	9.85	8.68	8.06	7.69
9.000%	12.67	10.15	9.00	8.40	8.05
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AgSouth members win Georgia Distinguished Cooperator Awards

By:Ricky Cochran, vice president

Every day 120 million people in America are solving problems and enjoying a better life because of their co-ops. AgSouth Farm Credit is just one of approximately 48,000 cooperatives nationwide.

The Georgia Distinguished Cooperator Awards are given to "individuals who have had a history of supporting cooperatives in Georgia and contributing to the success of their cooperative." Earlier this year, three AgSouth members were recognized by the Georgia Cooperative Council.

Henry Verner of Rutledge, Ga., a long-time farmer and AgSouth member, received his award along with the other winners on March 4, 2002. His career achievements include receiving the 1990 Farm Family Leadership and Achievement Award from the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. In 1992 he was named the Commercial



Henry Verner, accompanied by his wife, Sara, accepts the Georgia Distinguished Cooperator Awards.

Thomas Carter, "Henry Verner is a man whose roots are deep in family and community. He is an innovative farmer and a friend to all. If you need help, he's the kind of man who will do his best to help you."



S.J. Saffold, Jr. receives the plaque acknowledging his contributions for cooperatives.

Cattlemen of the Year by the Georgia Cattlemen's Association. He also received the Atlanta Farmer's Club 1996 Farm Family of the Year Award and the 1997 Centennial Family Farm Designation from the State of Georgia. According to AgSouth loan officer

Benson Ham of Forsyth, Ga., was also presented with the Distinguished Cooperator Award. Ham serves the electric cooperative industry in both state and national roles and was president of Georgia EMC for two terms. He also served as President of the National



Benson Ham thanks the council.

Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Rural Telephone Cooperative Finance Corporation since 1997. He is currently Vice President of the Monroe County Economic Development Authority and a member of the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority in Macon, which is responsible for assisting and coordinating the efforts of the county development authorities in central Georgia. Eddie Meeks, regional vice president of AgSouth, said, "Mr. Ham is a long-term member of AgSouth Farm Credit. As a partner with his sons, Jim and Phil, in one of Georgia's top cattle operations, he is a valued member of the AgSouth cooperative family."

The third AgSouth member to be honored with the award was **S.J. Saffold, Jr.**, of Morgan Co., Ga. As a member of eight cooperatives, it's evident that Saffold understands the benefits of doing business on a cooperative basis. He has been the president of the Morgan County Dairy Association for the past two years and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Morgan County Farm Bureau. In the past few years, Saffold has been honored by the Morgan County Planning Commission, the Morgan County Extension Service and the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce for community leadership. "Mr. Saffold has been a Farm Credit member for more than 30 years, and we in the Madison office know him not only as a member of AgSouth, but as a friend. His years of community service have benefited all those around him," says regional vice president Ricky Cochran. ❖

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New AgSouth employees!



Angie Adams

Angie Adams recently joined the association as a processor-underwriter. Angie is from Thomson, Ga., but grew up in Kissimmee, Fl. While in high school, she attended John Casablanca's School for Models and spent three years modeling and traveling throughout the United States. Shortly after graduating, she and her husband Brian moved to the Bahamas on Paradise Island, where her father was the project engineer for Phase II of the Atlantis Resort. They lived there for 18 months before returning to the States. Angie previously oversaw the processing and underwriting in the State of South Carolina for Fleetwood Mortgage and Horton Mortgage and Finance.



Rhonda Brant



Charlene Standridge

Angie and Brian relocated to Bostwick about a year-and-a-half ago, when he was offered a position as the Morgan County Game Warden. The couple has two daughters - Kayla, 5, and Madison, 2. They enjoy spending time as a family, camping out and riding horses. They are members of Gibbs Memorial Baptist Church and are active members of their community.

Rhonda Brant is the new mortgage loan originator serving Liberty County. Rhonda has been in the mortgage business for the past nine years in the Hinesville area. She is married to Danny Brant, a vice president with First Citizens Bank in Hinesville. Rhonda and her husband have two daughters. Jamie



Daniel Boylan

manages a doctor's office in Savannah, and Jolie is a junior at Georgia Southern University. Brant is a director with the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce and an active member of her community.

Charlene Standridge joined AgSouth Mortgages' processing unit in June. Charlene is from Watkinsville and has lived in Oconee County all her life. She graduated from Oconee County High School and attended West Georgia College. She is married to Phil Standridge and the couple has three children: Daniel, 7; Michael 10; and Anthony, 12. Before coming to AgSouth, Charlene was a legal assistant with an attorney's office in Atlanta. She enjoys fishing, camping and spending time with her family.

Daniel Boylan is the most recent addition to the processing unit. Daniel graduated in 1999 from the University of Texas at Austin in the Business Honors Program, where he received his B.A. in finance. Before joining AgSouth, he was the processing manager at Banker's Equity in Athens, Ga. Daniel enjoys fishing, reading, writing and recording music in his spare time. Multitalented, he plays the guitar, sax, piano and drums. ❖

Andy and Carolyn Ainslie LIVING THE RURAL LIFE IN MADISON

By: Ricky Cochran, vice president



**The historic Ainslie homestead
has been in the family since 1871.**



**Andy, Merritt and Andrew Ainslie raise nearly a quarter of a
million chicks each year.**





Andy and Carolyn Ainslie display the wedding announcement of Captain J.H. Ainslie and Miss Bennie Ballard, the original owners of the property.

Andy Ainslie has been principal of Morgan County High School for nine years and has had a career in education for almost 30 years. His wife, Carolyn, has been an Extension agent in Morgan County for 29 years.

In addition to their full-time duties to the community, Andy owns and operates a part-time farming operation, the main focus of which is a broiler operation, where Andy raises 250,000 birds annually. Andy and his sons also tend 50 head of beef cattle and 200 acres of planted pines.

As if this weren't enough to take up their time, the Ainslies have also made their historic home available for Madison's historic tour of homes. Andy and Carolyn with their sons, Andrew and Merritt, live on land that has been part of the Ainslies' heritage since 1871, when Andy's great grandparents emigrated from Scotland and purchased several hundred acres for a dairy and row crop operation. Andrew and his brother, Merritt, are the sixth consecutive generation of Ainslies to live on the property. Andrew, a graduate of North Georgia College, recently returned to Madison to live and work with his father on the farm.

Surrounded by tall, shady oaks, the homestead is the family's pride and joy, and they enjoy sharing it with others. Not much has changed about the 1871 home since it was first built. All of the lumber used to build the home was originally taken from the property. The home has been featured in many

publications, including [Marching Through Georgia: The Story of Soldiers and Civilians During Sherman's Campaign](#) by Lee Kinnett. Carolyn boasts that the kitchen cabinets (still in their original form) were some of the first built-in cabinets in the county. Because of the huge trees surrounding the property, the house stays relatively cool even in the sweltering Georgia heat.

The Ainslies were delighted a few years ago when a distant cousin called asking to visit their home and said she was bringing a special surprise with her. The visitor presented the family with an original newspaper article dated in 1871 from the *Madisonian* announcing the marriage of Captain J. H. Ainslie and Miss Bennie Ballard, the original owners of the property.

Part of the announcement states "Capt. Ainslie is a man well known to most of our people. Though an officer of the Union Army during 'the late unpleasantness,' he is now a Southern (sic) in sentiment." Andy and Carolyn get a real kick out of that statement, and the announcement in its entirety is proudly framed and displayed in their home.

Andy decided to give farming a try when they purchased the property 23 years ago. That's when he first came to Farm Credit. Andy learned a lot about Farm Credit from his father, a 20-year member of the association, and he knew there was no better place to go for financing. ❖

Achievements



Mike Stewart



Stacy Sikes



Theron Anderson



Stan Carver

Mike Stewart (Thomaston) and **Stacy Sikes** (Vidalia) recently graduated from the Georgia Banking School at the University of Georgia.

The Georgia Banking School is a three-year specialized school that provides loan officers with a thorough understanding of banking practices, regulations and management principles. Training includes residence sessions at the University of Georgia and home study problems. The program includes a well-balanced curriculum taught by UGA faculty members and industry experts.

Theron Anderson has accepted a new position as AgSouth's Director of Secondary Market and Related Services.

Theron will be relocating to the AgSouth administrative office in Statesboro, Ga. According to Anderson, "I will miss my many friends and neighbors in Blackshear. However, I am looking forward to returning to Bulloch County to assume the new responsibilities."

Theron has been with AgSouth Farm Credit for 11 years. A native of Statesboro, he graduated with a B.B.A. from Georgia Southern University. He is also a graduate of the Georgia Banking School and is currently attending the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. He is married to the former Ann Petkewich of Statesboro. Ann, an elementary school teacher, has accepted a position with Portal Elementary School this fall.

Stan Carver has been promoted to Regional Vice President. Stan will be team leader in the Douglas, Blackshear, Jesup and Baxley area. According to Carver, "I'm looking forward to handling these new responsibilities, but I won't be leaving my Douglas customers behind. They should still expect the same commitment and service I have given them in the past."

Stan has a B.S. from UGA and is a graduate of the Georgia Banking School. He is currently attending the LSU Graduate School of Banking. ❖

Wingate's Marina *a haven for outdoorsmen*

By: Stan Carver, regional vice president

In the southwestern corner of Georgia you'll find Lake Seminole, a 38,000 acre lake surrounded by wooded acreage that's been a haven to campers, fishers and hunters alike for many years. The lake, situated near Bainbridge, has 285 miles of shoreline that is abundant with wildlife. Between the lake and the surrounding woodlands, the Lake Seminole area offers something to delight all nature lovers.

If you're looking for a great place to stay while enjoying the outdoors, Wingate's



Wingate's Marina on Lake Seminole.

Marina on Lake Seminole is a rustic, scenic campground set on 238 acres adjoining the lake. For the past 45 years Jack Wingate has welcomed visitors from his rocker sitting just outside the country store. If you look close enough, you'll see the ruts of the rockers in the cement, where Jack has rocked away hundreds, perhaps thousands, of miles. The chairs may have changed over the years, and Jack may have gotten a bit older, but visitors to the lodge always know they'll be welcomed by the "man in the rocker."

Never mind that the owners for the past year have been Troy and Mark Barfield. Jack has been a fixture at Wingate's for more than four decades, and he's a man who knows his place. If he's not in his rocker, then you know he's found a quiet shady spot for a nap. Jack, an avid fisherman and outdoorsman all his life, is a member of

Georgia's prestigious Fisherman's Hall of Fame and can tell you all the best spots to anchor. If you find yourself in the mood to



Pam Martin, a Wingate guide, holds almost every record for women's bass fishing.

just "pass the time away," sit awhile and Jack will tell you story after story about how it was "back in the good old days."

When Troy and Mark, part-time timber farmers who own an electrical company,

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Wingate's Marina now has six new log cabins.



"Smiling Jack" Wingate has greeted many visitors for more than 45 years.



Owner Troy Barfield (left) and AgSouth loan officer Stan Carver (right) swap fish stories.



A Heron searches for dinner.

decided to purchase Wingate's last year, they went to an old friend, Stan Carver, an AgSouth loan officer in Douglas. Stan helped put together a package to purchase the land, and the Barfields found themselves with yet another business to run.

Troy and Mark recently added six log cabins and the facilities for an RV park. The campground has all amenities, including showers and laundry facilities. Visitors enjoy down home cooking at the restaurant, which is open from 5:30 a.m. "until the last fisherman wanders in for dinner," (usually around 10:30 p.m.) says Troy.

Lake Seminole is home to large mouth bass, school bass, stripers, hybrids, blue gill, shell crackers, crappy and catfish. The lake is also a winter haven for Canvasback Ducks each year. The wooded areas around the lake

are home to deer, turkey, duck and quail. If you're interested in hunting or fishing, Wingate's has guides available who are ready to take you to the best places. Pam Martin is a favorite guide among those who come to fish at Wingate's. She's been fishing since the age of 15 and holds almost every record in women's bass fishing. When she's not guiding people around the lake, Pam helps out in the store and on the grounds.

The bluegrass festivals held here each spring bring in many famous artists, including Third Time Out and Blue Grass Strangers. Thousands flock to hear the sounds of the fiddle and banjo on the "opry" stage, set on an island amidst wooded pine. Last year the festival brought in over 3,000 bluegrass enthusiasts from all over the Southeast. Mark's daughter, Amanda, books

the talent for the festivals and makes the arrangements for the BBQ cook-off contests each year.

Wingate's is also home to some of the area's largest fishing tournaments. Because of the mild climate, the facility is open year-round, but spring and fall are the really busy seasons. Hundreds of hopefuls fish the surrounding waters each month hoping for that prize-winning bass.

Guests like the family atmosphere of the lodge. In addition to providing entertainment for adults, there is a playground and canals stocked with fish for the little ones. To find out more about Wingate's Marina, visit www.wingatelodge.com. ❖

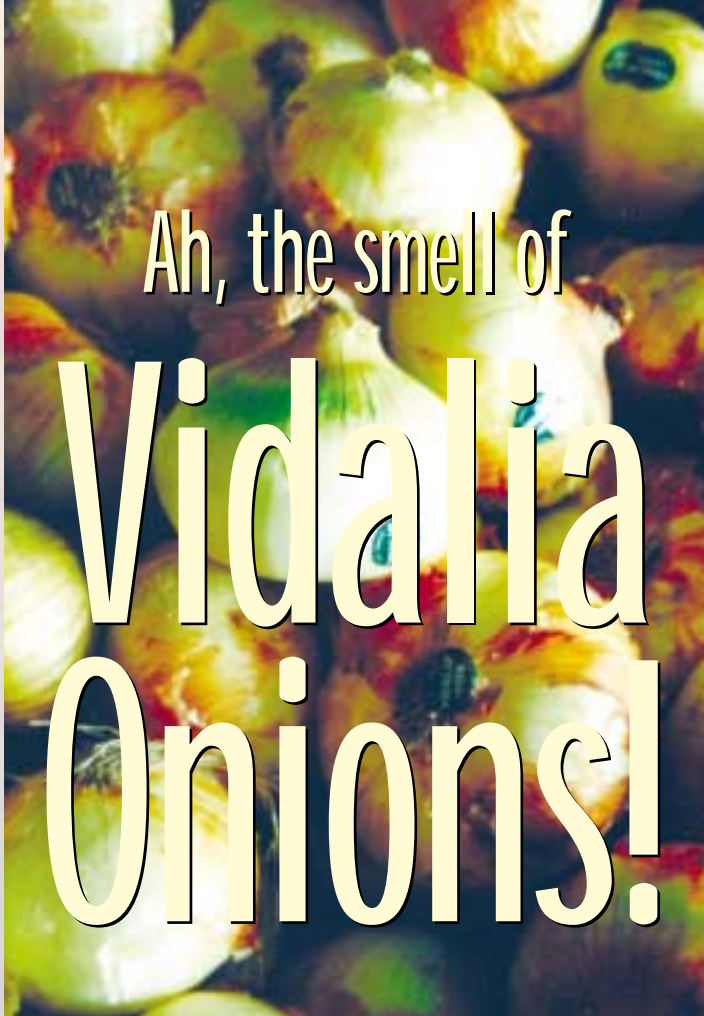
By: Paula Moxley, vice president

Standing beside the kitchen at Manning Farms, the aroma of something fills the air and makes my mouth water. Vince Stanley, owner of Manning Farms in Uvalda, Ga., is making the company's famous onion relish today, and it looks like I picked a good day to visit. With the Vidalia Onion Festival only weeks away, Manning Farms is getting ready for its sampling sales. "If I can get you to try it," says Stanley, "you'll buy it!" Judging by the smell from the kitchen, I think he just may be right.

Manning Farms gets its onions from the family-owned Stanley Farms in Lyons, Ga. The family got its start in the onion business in the 1970's with five acres and now grows over 1000 acres of the vegetable. The Vidalia Onion can be grown only in 20 counties in Georgia, and Stanley Farms is one of the largest onion operations in the state.

Vince has owned Manning Farms with his family for the past three years, but the company has been making Vidalia Onion products since 1983. Today the company makes 27 products and is the only Vidalia Onion processor that grows its own onions. As Stanley explains, "Because we grow our own onions, we're able to use more onions in our recipes. Our onion relish is 93% pure Vidalia Onions, compared to 49% in many of our competitors' products."

Manning Farms uses only Stanley Farms onions, grown by the family.



Ah, the smell of Vidalia Onions!

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Vince Stanley and Andy Woodruff make sure that the products coming off the line are tightly sealed to ensure freshness.

“Because we grow our own onions, we’re able to use more onions in our recipes.”



Manning employees start peeling onions well before dawn each morning.



Tracy, R.T. and Brian Stanley at the family’s factory in Lyons, Ga.



Sweet onion relish rolls off the line.

“If I can get you to try it, you’ll buy it.”

Manning Farms is an eight-acre facility that employs 15 workers during the busy season and six employees the rest of the year. Since they’ve owned the company, the Stanleys have added seven new products to their line. Vince and his sidekick, Karen Harville, develop their own recipes right there in the kitchen and stress that they don’t put in any fillers or preservatives. Even so, each product has a shelf life of about two years. Karen also designs and makes custom labels for the company’s clientele who wish to put their own name and logo on the products.

During the busy season Manning Farms starts processing around 4:30 a.m. and the employees work until about 2:00 p.m. before the heat really starts to set in. “It gets really hot in the kitchen,” says Stanley, “and we have to start early in order to get done before the heat becomes unbearable.” But when they’re cooking, they’re really cooking! The company produces up to 240 gallons of a product at a time.

With a high yield of quality onions this year, Stanley predicts a record sales year for Manning Farms. In addition to the 27 products they produce, the company will also work with companies to develop and market

their own recipes and co-pack for small businesses that already have their own recipe but no means of manufacturing it. “Many of our customers use our custom labeling service and box up our products as gifts for their clients and prospects during the holidays,” says Stanley. ❖

Ticks, those Pesky Summer Critters

By: Rhonda Uzzolino, marketing manager

Tick season is upon us. What better time to learn about our favorite arthropod? And where better to learn about these pesky, and often dangerous, critters than at the Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., home of the world's largest tick collection?

Dr. James H. Oliver, Jr. is Director of the Institute. At the lab Dr. Oliver and his associates study arthropods (insects, mites, ticks, spiders, crabs and other joint-legged

Smithsonian Institution made a long-term enhancement loan of the U. S. National Tick Collection, the largest in the world, to his department in 1990. The collection has more than a million specimens of approximately 850 species of ticks, including the world's largest tick.

Ticks are found in nearly every part of the world, even the Arctic, where scientists believe they arrived on the backs of migrating birds. While most ticks are not deadly disease carriers, Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are well-known diseases carried



Dr. Oliver says that the world's largest tick, shown here, is found on sloths.

animals) and parasites (viruses, bacteria, fungi, Protozoa, worms, etc.). They work with many other research institutes around the world searching for more insight into the diseases carried by these groups.

Dr. Oliver was delighted when the

by ticks in this area.

According to Dr. Oliver, some varieties of ticks can live up to 22 years; however, the average life span is two to three years. There are two varieties of tick: Ixodidae (hard shell) and Argasidae (soft shell). As larvae, most



The Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga., home of the National Tick Collection.



Dr. Oliver selects ticks for the microscope. The ticks are gold-plated to stabilize them for better viewing.

varieties of ticks have only six legs, but as they molt, grow and reach the nymphal stage, they grow two more legs. Adult eight-legged hard ticks are the ones we commonly see. Ticks feed by plunging a rod-shaped beaklike fixture into a host's skin.

Hard shell seed tick larvae hunt for hosts by holding onto vegetation and attaching to the nearest food source as the animal goes by. They hang on the food source until they finish feeding and then detach, fall to the ground and molt. Then they look for another host on which to feed. The hard shell tick feeds only once in each stage of development. A female hard tick's shell will expand so that she can ingest up to 600 times her unfed body weight. The shell of the male hard tick will not expand as much, resulting in smaller males. After reaching the adult



stage, the female hard tick feeds once more, mates, then lays approximately 1000 to 5000 eggs and dies. After mating, the adult male hard tick also dies. If you see a very large tick attached to your favorite pet, you can bet that it's a female hard tick.

Soft shell ticks generally have a longer life span than hard ticks and molt more often to reach the adult stage. These soft shell ticks generally live in a nest or burrow until disturbed. Once she reaches the adult stage, the female soft shell tick mates and lays eggs once after each feeding. The soft shell of the Argasidae can only expand up to ten times its unfed body weight, which means that it must feed more often than its cousin, the hard shell tick.

While you should be wary of any tick, some tick species are very host specific and will only feed on the blood of certain animals. If a host specific tick should land on you by accident, it will merely find the first opportunity to move on to a palatable food supply.

And just what is the best way to remove a tick if you find one embedded in your skin? Dr. Oliver indicated that he had heard everything, including burning to drowning in alcohol or even smothering the tick with oil or Vaseline. However, according to the expert, the best way to remove a tick is simply with a pair of tweezers, making sure to pull in the direction it's feeding so the mouthpart will not break off into the skin.

If you find a tick on you, immediately remove it and place it in alcohol for later identification if needed. Then watch for flu-like symptoms and rashes, including pain in the bones and fever. Should you notice any of these symptoms, see a doctor immediately and show him the tick. The physician can send it to the Institute at Georgia Southern to be identified in order to determine if it is capable of transmitting a pathogen. Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever can be deadly if not treated.

If you'd like to learn more about the Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology, please visit <http://www.bio.gasou.edu/iap/>. ❖

Dr. James H. Oliver, Jr., renowned scientist, part-time farmer

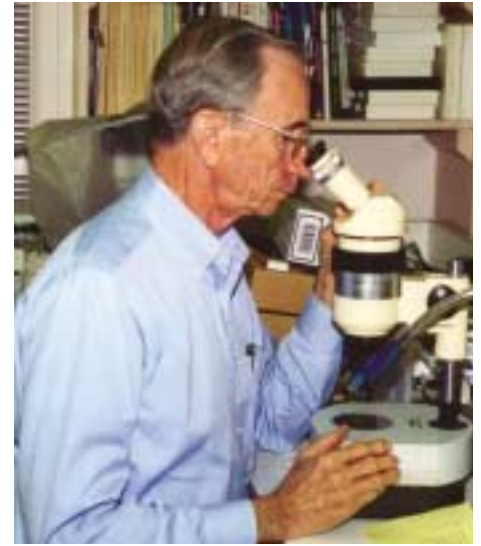
By: Dewey Newton, vice president

Dr. Oliver has a small timber tract in Bulloch County and is a member of AgSouth Farm Credit. He began his work in entomology in 1957 at the University of Kansas and received his Ph.D. in 1962. Then he spent a year at Melbourne University in Australia before accepting a position on the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley. He spent six months on special assignment to the U.S. Navy as a medical consultant in Cairo, Egypt, and parts of three years with the U.S. Army as a consultant in Japan. He also studied tick genetics and chromosomes at Rhodes University in South Africa. The National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the CDC and other government and private agencies have funded most of his research.

Dr. Oliver has been with Georgia Southern University since accepting the Callaway Professorship in 1968. He has won numerous awards and honors throughout his 44-year career and lectured at research labs and universities in 25 states and 19 foreign countries. As one of the most acclaimed parasitologists in the world, he has numerous publications based on his studies.

He is currently directing one master's and two postdoctoral GSU advanced students. Over the years he has guided 29 master's students, nine PhD's and 27 postdoctorals. Past students under him have gone on to complete other advanced degrees in arthropodology and parasitology at some of the leading universities of the world. His past post-doctoral and research assistants can be found all over the United States and in several foreign countries.

Dr. Oliver and his wife, Sue, grow pine trees on a small farm in Statesboro. They have two children and three grandchildren. When he's not spending time in the lab or at home with his family, some say you can find Dr. Oliver, reported to be an excellent dancer, jitterbugging until all hours of the morning. I guess you can take the man away from the bugs, but you can't take the jitterbug out of the man! ❖



Dr. Oliver studies ticks at his lab.



Dr. Oliver presents the Eminent Parasitologist lecture to the American Society of Parasitologists

THE CENTER FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND THE LAMAR Q. BALL, JR. RAPTOR CENTER DELIGHTS VISITORS YEAR-ROUND



From the left: W. Warren Ball, Catherine W. Dukehart, Lamar Q. Ball, III and David A. Ball.

BY: John Clark, vice president

The Center for Wildlife Education and The Lamar Q. Ball, Jr. Raptor Center at Georgia Southern University is a 4-1/2-acre wooded education center in Statesboro, Ga. Visitors here can spend hours enjoying both indoor and outdoor exhibits and demonstrations and exploring natural habitat displays.

Director Steve Hein designed the recreational facility with Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. Steve is proud of the way they created a natural surrounding showcasing some of nature's most fantastic birds of prey and other wildlife.

The Center was funded, in part, by a generous donation from AgSouth members David A. Ball, and W. Warren Ball of Statesboro, along with their older brother, Lamar Q. Ball, III, and their mother, Kitty Dukehart of Atlanta, who made the donation on behalf of and named the center in honor of their late father and husband. David and Warren grew up in Atlanta, Ga. They moved to Statesboro to attend Georgia Southern University in the late 70s, fell in love with this community and decided to make Bulloch County their home. As grandsons of Asa Candler, one of the founders of the Coca-Cola Company, these selfless men have given a lot back to their community. In addition to



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AgSouth loan officer Dewey Newton inspects a Falcon.



Visitors to the Center get a close-up view of a reptile.



The Center's Assistant Director and general falconer Wendy Denton conducts flight demonstrations in the amphitheater.



Some of the birds on the nature trail include (From the left:) Barrell Owl, Barn Owl, American Eagle and Golden Eagle.

their donation for the raptor center, the brothers are heavily involved in the growth and improvement of the community through endless hours of community service and through the financial support of numerous community projects that depend solely on private donations.

Warren is an active farmer who raises cattle and hogs and grows hay, peanuts and grains on his farm just outside Statesboro. David's involvement in agriculture is centered around recreational properties, wildlife management and timber production. David says that the Raptor Center is one of the more interesting projects the brothers have worked on.

Inside the Center, children of all ages can hunt for more than 50 species of animals in their natural habits at the Down-to-Earth Encounter. Anything from snakes to turtles (some of them

live) to other creatures of the forests and wetlands can be found here.

At the lecture hall, care and handling experts bring out live exotic reptiles, like an 11-foot Burmese python. If you're one of the "lucky" ones, you can touch or even hold some of these reptiles, an experience you're not likely to forget.

Outside the Center, there is a self-guided nature walk leading visitors through 11 habitat displays housing several species of live birds of prey in their natural surroundings. The birds, which include owls, eagles, falcons and hawks, were donated to the Center because of an injury of some type that left them unable to fend for themselves in the wild. Here the birds are cared for and protected from predators.

In addition to the nature walk, visitors can sit in the 120-seat amphitheater and enjoy a raptor

flight demonstration, showcasing owls, falcons and hawks. According to Director Steve Hein, a Master Falconer who has been practicing his craft for more than 15 years, the Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird on the planet. This bird hunts by diving into its prey and knocking it out of the sky. It can dive up to speeds of 200 mph and its force of impact can be so deadly that the bird can literally decapitate a duck. Owls, slow flying birds, are quiet night hunters that hunt through their keen sense of hearing and sight. They have specially adapted features that allow them to fly silently through the night.

The Center is open year-round to visitors free of charge, and during the school year hosts school groups from all over Georgia. The Center employs five full-time and 15 part-time student workers.

Director Hein is also a freelance artist, who has donated many of his collection of signed prints to the Center for sale in the gift shop. You can also find his work around the Center in the illustrated signs along the Habitat Walkway or in the mural at the Down-to-Earth Encounter. Mr. Hein was honored with the Georgia Governor's "Artist of Excellence" award for his artistic talents and received the Georgia Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year award three times.

If you're looking for an educational and fun experience for the family, check out Georgia Southern's Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q. Ball, Jr. Raptor Center. For more information on the Center, visit their website at www.bio.gasou.edu/wildlife/ or call 912-681-0831. ❖



**Ranger First Class
Brian Adams
patrolling Lake
Oconee.**

Brian Adams, DNR Ranger

Living his Dream

BY: Rhonda Uzzolino, marketing director

Brian Adams is a Ranger First Class with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Section. Brian and his team are responsible for covering the Lake Oconee area in Georgia. The DNR enforces all state laws, with a special emphasis on wildlife and boating laws. Rangers assist boaters on the water and check for proper safety equipment. They also enforce hunting laws and check for proper licensing. The Department of Natural Resources is a very important part of Georgia law enforcement.

Brian has been a ranger for four years. He loves his job and says that he was born to do it. "I've wanted to be a game warden ever since I can remember. When I graduated from high school, I said, 'tell me where to go from here to be a game warden,' and that's where I went." Brian graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton with a double degree in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and immediately applied for a position with the

Department.

The Department's application process includes testing an applicant's knowledge of wildlife and gaming laws. According to Brian, the applicant must also pass a rigorous physical course, which includes strength testing and a three mile run through the woods, followed immediately by a 100-yard swim, all in a sweat suit three sizes too big in his case. Out of more than 1600 aspiring rangers, Brian was one of the 23 hired in 1998.

"Life as a Game Warden is never boring," according to Brian. In the fall, there's deer and duck hunting season. "You may be out in the woods in the snow, in the freezing rain, in the dead of night or just on a beautiful fall day that makes you glad to be alive." The department keeps busy during the fall checking for night hunters, proper licensing and making sure no one is hunting over bait. They also run across quite a few drug set-ups in their treks through the woods. "Rangers use to find a lot of moonshine stills, but those have now been replaced by meth labs,"



A game warden's duties include checking for proper licensing.

declares Brian. It's often dangerous work because of the nature of the job itself and

because most rangers work alone. According to Brian, rangers are over 400 times more likely to be assaulted than policemen and highway patrolmen.

In the spring and summer months, wardens spend most of the time on the lake, watching for DUIs, checking for proper boating safety equipment and patrolling the waters to make sure everything is running smoothly. “We want people to have fun, but to do it responsibly. Most accidents on the lake are caused by DUIs or jet skiers, who often lose control of the vessel,” says Brian. Brian says that every boater and sportsman should pick up the handbooks containing the laws and regulations and know the rules. Handbooks are free at hunting and fishing stores across Georgia. If you are stopped by one of the rangers, Brian’s advice is to be

polite and cooperate. The rangers are there for the public’s safety and not “out to get you.”

Rangers also help build platforms for Osprey nests over the water. Eagles and Ospreys, indigenous to the area, only make their nests in dead wood. Ospreys, who mate for life, never stop building their nests. Because of this, the nests get too heavy for the rotted wood and fall over, leaving the birds homeless. “We help build the platforms so that this species won’t vanish from the Lake Oconee area,” explains Brian.

Lake Oconee contains more than 19,000 acres. That’s a large area to cover every day. Brian and the other six rangers who work the lake are often on the water until the early morning hours. It can be dangerous work, but Brian is a nature lover who enjoys

working outside in all kinds of weather.

At present, the Department of Natural Resources has 250 rangers in the state and is always looking for qualified rangers. If you are interested in finding out more about the Department or obtaining an employment application, contact the agency at www.gms.state.ga.us.



Ospreys nest on specially constructed platforms.



Brian Adams, Ranger First Class.



DNR rangers discuss water safety procedures



A DNR boat patrols Lake Oconee.



AGSOUTH'S M

Don't forget to browse our website for miscellaneous items and real estate for sale. This is becoming a popular site and we are adding items weekly. To add or delete something to our on-line For Sale column, please contact ruzzolino@agsouthfc.com. And if you find what you're looking for, don't forget to contact AgSouth for financing.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale:

Townhouse duplex, each w/2 bd, 2-1/2 bath, lr, dr, kit, c/h/a/. Duplex, each w/2 bd, 2 bath, lr, kit, c/h/a (income from apartments \$1700/month). Brick home 1700 sq ft - 3 bd, 1-1/2 bath, lr, dr, den w/fireplace, kit, large screened-in back porch c/h/a on 1.35 acres in Stephens County (N'East Ga.). Property being sold due to ill health of owner. Asking \$320,000. Contact 706-779-5763.

Mini farms - 20-30 acre tracts at \$6,000/acre. S Monroe/W Bibb Counties - pastures, wooded area, great for hunting. Contact Ron at ronhowell@designbuild.com.

754.8 acres in Screven County. Cultivation, ponds, woods. Call Bob Bryan at 912-587-5745.

180 acres in Screven County. Cultivation, planted pines, pond and woodland. Call Bob Bryan at 912-587-5745.

Wanted:

15-20 acres in S'East Emanuel Co. Contact wgrimes@pineland.net.

5-20 acres of pastureland in the Walton County area. Willing to lease land for cattle and pasture. Contact enflesh@aol.com.

10-20 acres w/pond in Middle Ga. area suitable for hunting and fishing. Contact cmillerdeshawn@aol.com.

100-200 acres in Johnson or Laurens Counties. Prefer mostly wooded w/ timber (hardwoods preferred). No cutover tracts. Contact Jeremy at cliftona@frontiernet.net. Registered Forester GA. #2606, Clifton Forest & Appraisal Service @ 912-489-8250.

10-15 acres of land suitable for horses in Newnan area w/ house & small barn (barn optional). Must be at least partially fenced. Would also like a stream. Contact davenger97@aol.com.

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Small land tracts for development in the Georgia/Tennessee area. Also 100-1000 acres of hunting land in the same area. Contact Larry Kuka, PO Box 777, Harrison TN 37341 or call 423-344-7777, fx 423-344-0022 or e-mail mlrpg@ampub.com.

50-100 acres wooded (no pines) and some open area in either Upson, Washington, Troup, Haralson, Harris or Crawford Counties. Must be under \$5000/acre. Higher price, less acreage. Will exchange for property in Carroll County off I-20 in developing area. Contact dan214320@earthlink.net.

Large acreage in Paulding Co. or close, zoned residential for less than \$5,000,000. Contact argo4416@aol.com.

Land with a private place to fish. Prefer at least a 4+-acre Bass pond w/ 10+ surrounding acres of woods @ \$40,000 or less. Contact John Hubbard at hubbard@abraxis.com.

8-20 acres in Bartow County for a good price to build a home on and for hunting. Contact Chris at chrisokate@aol.com.

Reasonably priced 75-150 acres farm/hunting tract in the Twin City, Canoochee, Garfield or Durdenville area. Contact 912-587-9808 or 536-2100 or tdhomes@bulloch.net or by mail at PO Box 2901, Statesboro, Ga. 30459.

30-70 acres in Coweta or Meriwether Counties. Contact gusmaya54@aol.com.

50-120 acres in the Statesboro/Metter vicinity. Mostly cleared or cultivated land. Contact Steve at moonriver9@home.com or moonriver9@comcast.net.

80+ acres with 4 (min) chicken houses or 5 (min) turkey houses. Contact sewwhite@ipa.net.

5-25 acres in Irwin, N Berrien, E Tifton or S Ben Hill county. Contact dlcook12@hotmail.com.

Old farm house in good condition on 5+ acres in Rockdale or Newton Counties. Contact dlyoungblood@mindspring.com.

125-350 in Emanuel, Jenkins, Screven, Tattnall, Bulloch or Washington Counties. Must have ponds or creeks. Needs to have hardwood & pines. Not interested in lands

that have recently been cutover. Needs to have some fields for planting and must be able to support a cabin and electrical service. Contact: smtent@islc.net.

3+ acres w/ house that allows horses in Carroll, Paulding, Haralson or Douglas counties for under \$130k. Contact 770-949-9786.

2-10 acres in Morgan County, mainly Rutledge or Madison. Contact Eric Ulrich @ bratt@peoplepc.com.

Large acreage - hunting tracts/timberland. Contact Robert Bryan @ bryanland@prodigy.net.

5-10 acres in Jones County, Ga. Contact M. Weekley @ 478-742-3884.

Farmland in the south. Contact David MacIntyre, Organic Farming Systems, 300 N Derbyshire Ave, Arlington Heights IL 60004.

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100-500-acre tract in or around Meriwether County, Ga. Contact vgck@aol.com or call 770-599-8536.

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Looking for land. Contact bosfarm@gmi.net.

EQUIPMENT

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Ford 7700 tractor \$8,500. Contact Steve Mimbs @ 706-647-8163.

Dust blower for blowing dust from poultry house ceilings and walls w/adjustable air flow. \$2400.00. Contact Glenn @ 706-543-7435.

John Deere 4400 combine, with a corn head, grain head, and a row crop head. Contact Stevie @ 912-489-4842 x 30.

1997 John Deere 6400 4WD w/extended warranty, dual remotes, shuttle shift transmission, 1500 hrs. Excellent condition.

Call Vann Wooten @ 912-375-5246 or e-mail topfarms@altamaha.net.

2 corn hoppers, 30' high with loading & unloading shoots. Call Larry Smith @ 330-348-3808.

Wanted:

6 to 8 Used 14' peanut wagons w/hydraulic dumps. Contact Dennis Scott (912) 863-4754.

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1997 Ford F-150 Lariat. Fully loaded. Excellent condition. 76,000 miles. Asking \$13,250. Contact 478-825-2962.

1995 Z71 Chevrolet Pickup; 4 wd 86,000 miles; 350 engine, auto trans, cruise control, tilt wheel, AM/FM/CD. Excellent condition; Asking \$10,500; Call after 5:00 pm 912-685-3679.

MISCELLANEOUS:

For Sale:

Custom hay baling and hay for sale. Contact Bernard Vickers @ 912-384-0947 (home) or 912-381-0947 (mobile). Bale size is 4' x 5-1/2' with mesh wrap.

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