For IMMEDIATE Release

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Rob Hicks, Forester with Plum Creek, (center) presents Dr. Rod Brown, ABAC forestry department head, (second from left) and ABAC students a $9,982 check to fund new equipment and software license purchases.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Receives Plum Creek Foundation Grant

TIFTON- The Plum Creek Foundation awarded a $9,982 grant to the Forest Resources Department at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) to support forestry and wildlife instruction in the department’s degree programs.
According to Dr. Rod Brown, department head, the funds from the Plum Creek Foundation will have a lasting impact on the quality of instruction the department of Forest Resources is able to provide students from across Georgia and neighboring states that desire a career involving management of the region’s forest resources.

“State appropriations for the college have been drastically reduced over the past few years,” said Brown. “Thanks to this award from Plum Creek Foundation we will be able to increase the effectiveness of instruction in a number of our forestry and wildlife courses with the purchase of new equipment and additional software licenses.”

ABAC’s Department of Forest Resources offers a Bachelor of Applied Science in Natural Resource Management degrees with majors in forestry and wildlife management in addition to the Associate of Applied Science degrees in forest technology and wildlife technology.

ABAC began offering bachelor’s degrees in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management in January, 2008 with interest from 40 students. The college added a Natural Resource Management bachelor’s degree with majors in Forestry and Wildlife Management in 2011.

According to ABAC President David Bridges, the enrollment in the forestry and wildlife program at the college has almost doubled since 2011. Bridges said ABAC’s outstanding reputation in the field of natural resources continues to pay off.

“Our students get a classroom education, then they study in the labs, they study in the forests, they study in the fields, and they study on plantations,” Bridges said. “It’s just the type of education that prepares them for the workplace.”
The mission of the Plum Creek Foundation is to provide philanthropic contributions to support and improve the general welfare of life in the communities that Plum Creek serves. Plum Creek is one of the largest landowners in the nation and the most geographically diverse, with approximately 6.4 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States.