Moore Named New Department Head of Forest Resources

TIFTON—Dr. William Moore, associate professor of wildlife ecology and management at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, added a new role to his already busy schedule this year. On Aug. 1, Moore was named Department Head of Forest Resources in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Moore is looking into strengthening the forest resources program as much as possible.
“We just had the first graduates of the four-year degree program in forest resources this spring,” Moore said. “I want to maintain the program’s success of being the highest quality with the best academic standards for our forest resources students.”

According to the University of Georgia’s Cooperative Extension, Georgia forests cover some 24.8 million acres. In the past 10 years, total forest land has increased and now covers 67 percent of the land area statewide and is home to nearly 1,400 forest products manufacturers, making Georgia the largest timber-producing state in the southeastern U.S. The state is consistently ranked near the top in pulp and paper production and in the top ten lumber-producing states.

“Tens of thousands of timber products come from Georgia,” Moore said. “Since timber is a renewable resource, it gives sustainability to both the product and the economy that provides growth for the state.”

On Aug. 6, as his first official role as department head, he travelled with ABAC Forestry Club advisors and members to Valdosta to attend the Georgia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) meeting, where the Forestry Club received its official charter as a Student Chapter of SAF. The campus organization was established in 2012.

He also advises the ABAC student chapter of The Wildlife Society. The campus organization was established in 2006. Moore is a member of The Wildlife Society, through which he became a certified wildlife biologist. The criteria include educational background and years of professional experience in order to become certified.

Moore found his way into the field of wildlife and forest resources unexpectedly.
“When it was time for me to go to college, I only knew what I didn’t want to do,” Moore said. “I heard about the field of wildlife management, decided to give it a shot, and ended up really enjoying it. The choice to go into wildlife conservation was simply out of luck. The field found me.”

He received his associate of science degree in Forest Resources at ABAC before heading to the University of Georgia where he earned both his bachelor and masters of science degrees in forest resources. He then attained his Ph.D. in forest resources from Clemson University. Moore has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 2002.

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