

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Welcome!



WELCOME TO THE NRES NEWSLETTER

>>> READ MORE

Read Dr. Wubishet Tadesse's welcome letter to the NRES Department in this inaugural edition of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Newsletter.

READ MORE <<<

Meet the newsletter committee, who will report on departmental news, faculty and student research, opportunities, and stories which pertain to the department.

INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

AG WEEK

>>> READ MORE

Read about the great success of AG Week!

READ MORE <<<

Find out news happening in the NRES Department.

NEWS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS

>>> READ MORE

Check out Alabama Extension's Eco-Friendly Friday Environmental Series, now happening every second Friday of the month.



INTRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

A NEW UNDERTAKING

By Dr. Daniela Granato de Souza, Promise Johnson, and Rachel Stone



Dr. Daniela Granato de Souza
Assistant Professor

»»» DR. DANIELA GRANATO DE SOUZA

Hello everyone. I'm Daniela, an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. I'm happy to be able to share all the cool things we're doing here at Alabama A&M University (AAMU). We have many opportunities, great ongoing projects, and entry-level positions for students, staff, and researchers who want to learn more about environmental science, gain good educational and professional skills, and spend quality time with good people here at AAMU. Please follow our newsletter to stay up to date on what's happening.

»»» PROMISE JOHNSON

We welcome you to the Official Newsletter for Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences! This is definitely an exciting time to have you here! So, in this world of Environmental Science, we will convey all of the happenings and keep you informed about upcoming events, departmental news and opportunities specifically for you. Let's go on a journey together to learn about the planet and how to actually protect it for the generations to come. Let's find out how those pioneering in this field have taken extraordinary measures to help the planet, and how you could possibly be a part! The goal is that we as individuals, a department, and College need to learn more about our planet and how to keep it as green as possible.

»»» RACHEL STONE

Hello everyone! It is my honor and pleasure to serve on the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) Newsletter Committee. I am excited to learn more about what this department is about and share what I learn with all of you. There are so many cool things happening in the NRES department and it will be great for all of us to celebrate each other's accomplishments. I hope we can all learn new things about the planet we call home and how our department is helping to protect it.



Promise Johnson
Administrative Assistant



Rachel Stone
Secretary

AG WEEK

A ROARING SUCCESS

By Rachel Stone



➤➤➤ AG Week began September 17th with a motivational lecture from Dr. Tau Kadhi, Associate VP for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate Studies. Dr. Kadhi spoke about how we have to see the greatness in others and support them, but also that we have to realize the greatness we have within ourselves. Attendees at the lecture were instructed to turn to their neighbors and tell them that they are great. Then each person was instructed to say, "I am great." This interactive lecture was a fantastic way to start AG Week as it got the College into a positive mindset.

At the lecture, thirteen CALNS retirees were honored, including Dr. Ernst Cebert, Dr. Regine Mankolo, and Ms. Martha Palmer. Mrs. Phyllis Campell and Mrs. Beverly Joiner were also recognized for their great service to the NRES department and the Dean's office.

➤➤➤ On September 18th, the event *Oh, Taste and See* was held behind the Dawson building. Students showed up from several different colleges to learn about CALNS and all of the different opportunities we offer. There was a great deal of interest in our booth. Students were excited to learn about the FireDawgs and Conclave, as well as the different NRES clubs. If you have a club or student group you would like to advertise, please email information about the club and your contact information to the NRES newsletter email.

AG WEEK CONTINUED...



»»» September 19th heralded the biggest event in AG Week- *Engage, Experience, be Entertained and Eat with CALNS*. Several faculty, staff, and students were manning the NRES booth throughout the event and sharing what the NRES department is about and what they can learn from us. The heat of the day didn't stop people from coming out and partying with CALNS. We had a great turnout for this event. Students enjoyed freebies from all the different booths, food and ice cream from Food Science, and dancing on the Quad. A rock wall was set up near our booth and several people took on the challenge of scaling it.

»»» The final event of AG Week, *Kick Back with Us* included a visit to Winifred Thomas Agricultural Research Station, on September 20th. Transportation was provided through AAMU's BTS and the College's vans, for persons who chose not to drive. Several departments in CALNS have ongoing research projects at the almost 1,000-acre research station out in Hazel Green. Nearly 300 students, faculty, and staff participated in this final day of AG Week, causing a flurry of activity to bring in additional tables and chairs.

Students learned about past and present projects happening at the research station. The research station offers students a great hands-on opportunity to perform research and prepare for careers in agriculture. Dr. Ernst Cebert, a professor and manager of the station, welcomed everyone and explained what the students could expect to see during the tours. So many students came to this event that there was a rotation of tour times. Students who were not out on a tour could stay back and explore the grounds on foot, eat the catered food or play the many games available, inside or outside.

Outside were two food trucks that visitors could partake in. The first food truck had snow cones to help fight off the heat of the day. The second food truck offered fried catfish or chicken, fries, bread, and coleslaw.



AG WEEK CONTINUED...



Presentations were given throughout the event by research assistants who work at the research station.

Dr. Ceibert has worked at Alabama A&M University since March 1998. He has worked for our esteemed organization for over 26 years and has contributed so much. He was honored at the motivational lecture on September 17th as one of NRES's retirees.

»»» We wanted to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped with and came out to AG Week! It wouldn't have been such a success without everyone.



Thank you!

NEWS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

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THE HAPPENINGS

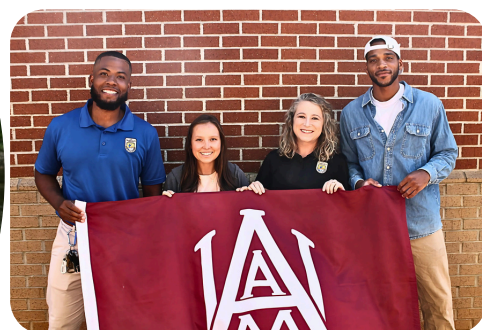
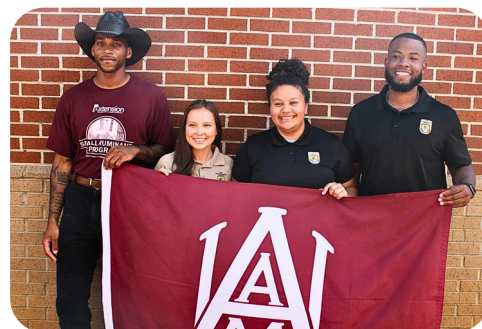
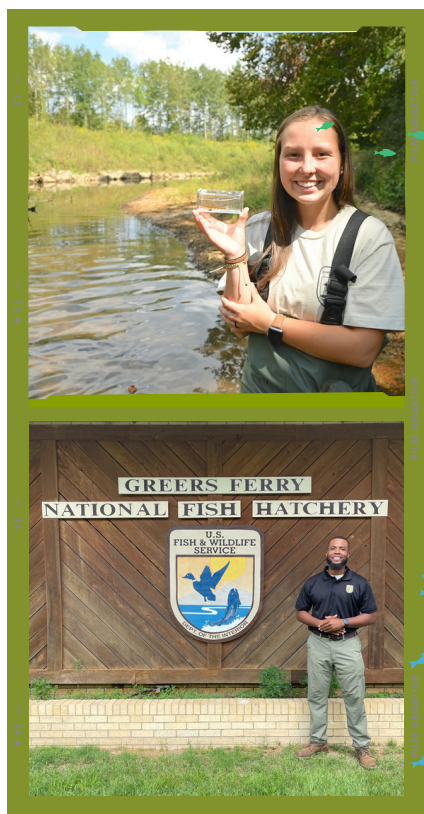
By Dr. William Stone, Julia Mapp Williams, Dr. Elica Moss, and Rachel Stone



Alabama A&M University has joined the US Fish & Wildlife Consortium of Minority Serving (USFWS) universities. The signing ceremony was attended in person by Drs. Tadesse and Naka, and virtually by President Daniel K. Wims, Dr. Lloyd Walker, and Dr. William Stone. It was held at Bowie State University in Maryland on Friday, September 27. Dr. Tadesse signed the MOU on behalf of the University.

We look forward to the synergy of purpose in training Fish & Wildlife professionals with Bowie State University, Bethune-Cookman University in Florida, Tuskegee University in Alabama, Fort Valley State University in Georgia, University of Texas at San Antonio, and New Mexico State University. Students will continue to reap rewards in training and job placement through this partnership. At the same time, faculty and staff will benefit from greater technical capacity from the USFWS and fellow Consortium members, as well as the identification and acquisition of additional resources to provide teaching, research, and extension opportunities to students in the future.

The five current AAMU students who are US Fish and Wildlife Service interns are Dominic Terry, McKenzie Smith, Karman Morgan, Daivon Allen, and McKenzie Davis. Jenna King - FWS SSA Biologist is collocated on AAMU campus as official duty station.



Read AAMU
Press Release

Photos by Dr. William Stone and Rachel Stone

NEWS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED...

>>> UNO NIGHT!

On September 25th, the NRES department came together for a fun night of UNO and food. The students had the opportunity to hear from a speaker about a possible trip to Atlanta, GA, next month. With an amazing turnout, friendships were forged, and the NRES community was strengthened.



Photos by Julia Mapp Williams

>>> GRAD MEET & GREET

On September 26th, a Graduate Student Pizza Meet & Greet was held by the department so that the graduate students could meet faculty, staff, and other graduate students. The deans of the college and the graduate college stopped by to speak to the students and to let them know they have plenty of resources available to them. It was a relaxed event with plenty of pizza to go around.



Photos by Rachel Stone

>>> DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

Heaven Pollard, a senior in the Environmental Science program, has been accepted to the 2025 Biological Opportunities And Training in Sciences (BOATS) Internship in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research and Mentoring Program (RaMP) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL). Ms. Pollard has been invited to work with her mentor, Dr. Moss, on a research project from January 6, 2025 to December 12, 2025. The NRES Department would like to congratulate Ms. Pollard and wish her luck at Dauphin Island!

NEWS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED...



»»» ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship for Environmental Justice (EJ) is to be endowed to the Environmental Science Program at Alabama A&M University by Sherry D. Milan JD, MSPH, a native of Huntsville. EJ promotes justice in the world and builds relationships that help transform society in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. The scholarship supports and encourages researchers and scholars to reach beyond the walls of their institutions and disciplines and engage grassroots organizations to search for just solutions that prevent pollution and environmental illness.

The movement for environmental justice (EJ) began in the U.S. in the 1980s as low-income people and communities of color struggled to protect themselves from hazardous facilities and waste, and its scope has greatly expanded. It now encompasses a broad range of issues, from climate justice to food justice to green jobs and much more. It has documented how environmental and health disparities are experienced not only by people of color and of low income, but also by women, the indigenous, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

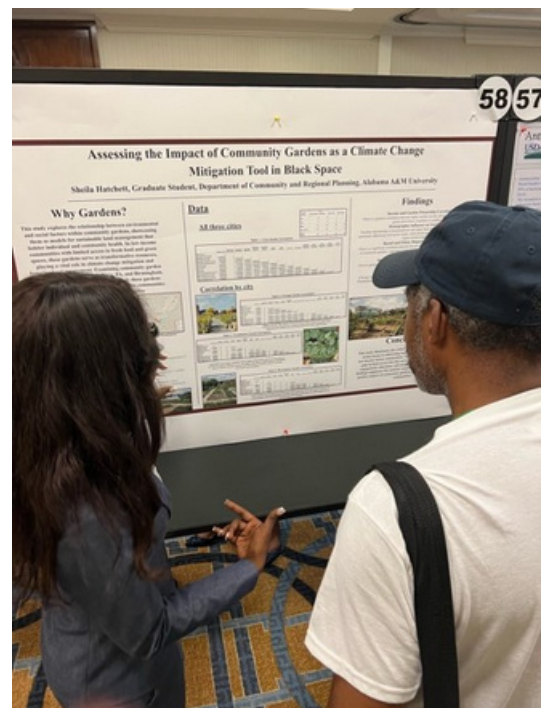
Engaged scholarship, in which academic and other professional researchers collaborate with community-based organizations, has made an important contribution to EJ. EJ students learn why environmental harms and benefits are inequitably distributed, and how communities are organizing to revitalize the health of humans, our ecosystems, and the integrity of our social fabric.

NEWS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED...

Recently, the Environmental Science Program has taken steps to identify pollution issues and strategies for prevention in Africatown (near Mobile AL), the site of the Clotilda, the last illegal slave ship that came to America; Alabama's Black Belt region including Lowndes County, Sumter County and Uniontown; and also Elba, North Birmingham, and Athens, AL, all of which have seen issues related to flooding and wastewater pollution including but not limited to sewage overflow from wastewater treatment plants and lack of adequate sewage systems.

Additionally, the Environmental Science Program has been affiliated with the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice for the past eight years. The DSCEJ is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families harmed by pollution and vulnerable to climate change in the Gulf Coast Region through research, education, community, and student engagement for policy change, as well as health and safety training for environmental careers.

Each year the DSCEJ along with the Robert E. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice hosts its annual HBCU Climate Change Conference. In the past, students from AAMU have participated and won various research awards. Students identified through this scholarship will have the opportunity to travel to the conference and engage those with a vested interest in racial disparities in a broad range of environmental and climate change research.



AAMU Environmental Health Science students attending the Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference in New Orleans, LA.

ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION- YES PLEASE!

By Rachel Stone, Loretta Lynne Weninegar, and Patience Knight

Alabama Extension's Natural Resources Team is hosting a series of talks every second Friday of each month discussing "management practices to safeguard human, animal, and environment health and practical solutions to help reduce your ecological footprints." Two of our very own NRES team were invited to speak for two sessions of EFF. Ms. Weninegar gave a talk about "An Introduction to Growing Native Plants" on September 13th, which you can check out on Facebook! Ms. Knight's talk will be held on October 11th and will cover "Alabama's Biodiversity."

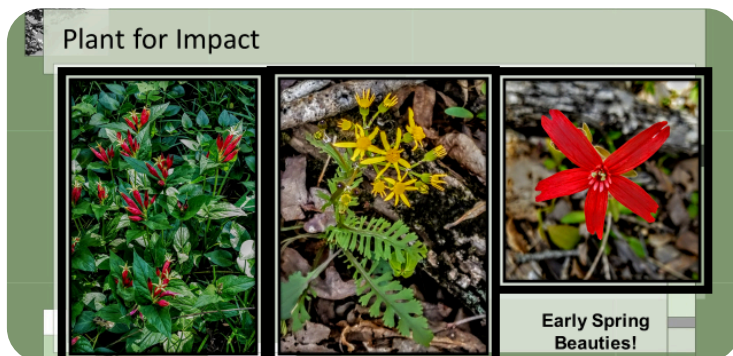


Link to view
past
sessions

>>> LORETTA LYNNE WENINEGAR

In a recent Eco-Friendly Friday, Lynne Weninegar presented: "An Introduction to Growing Native Plants" for the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Our native pollinators and other wildlife rely on native plants for optimum health and reproduction. As the wild landscape around our state becomes altered by urban sprawl, home landscapes are becoming an alternative for replacing at least a portion of the native vegetation and habitat lost to development. The ecological services provided by native plants often cannot be adequately substituted with non-native plant species.

After a brief definition of what a "native plant" is, participants received a beginner's set of guidelines to establish native species in a home setting, successfully. Beginning with a "purpose" and a "dream", Lynne offered pointers on starting a gardener's journal and effectively using it to make future gardening decisions and track the species already planted. Online resource information to locate native nurseries in Alabama, plant databases such as the USDA plants website: plants.usda.gov, how to order ACES soil test kits, locate climate information by county, and identify the Hardiness Zone for the region were made available to viewers. Several native species of plants were shown as the presentation progressed. Future presentations that build on the development of native gardens are planned.



Photos by Loretta Lynne Weninegar

ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS...

➤➤➤ PATIENCE KNIGHT

Ms. Knight will speak on Alabama's varied biodiversity and "what homeowners can do to positively affect native diversity." She sent pictures of just a few examples of our state's wide-ranging biodiversity, which are seen below.



Photos by Paint Rock
ForestGEO plot census crews

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

>>> NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Email nresnewsletter@aamu.edu for more information

>>> AG WEEK

Contact the CALNS office
WTARS- contact Dr. Xianyan Kuang
xianyan.kuang@aamu.edu

>>> FISH AND WILDLIFE

Contact Dr. William Stone
william.stone@aamu.edu
ext. 4248

>>> ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLUB

Contact Dr. Elica Moss
elica.moss@aamu.edu
ext. 8219

>>> NRES GRADUATE PROGRAM

Contact Dr. Srinivasa Mentreddy
srinivasa.mentreddy@aamu.edu
ext. 4250

>>> SCHOLARSHIP

Contact Dr. Elica Moss
elica.moss@aamu.edu
ext. 8219

>>> ECO-FRIENDLY FRIDAYS

Contact Karnita Garner
kfg0003@aces.edu
ext. 8331

**CONTACT
NRESNEWSLETTER@AAMU.EDU
FOR YOUR STORY TO BE
SHARED!**

