

New Book Takes Readers on Outdoor Adventures



Fred Faulk

Donald C. Jackson

A collection of short stories and conservational essays by a veteran Mississippi State fisheries biologist and nationally recognized conservationist now is on bookshelves.

Tracks reflects on the 20-year professional career—spent largely outdoors—of university professor Donald C. Jackson. University Press of Mississippi publishes the 279-page collection.

Jackson is a teacher and researcher in MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, a part of the College of Forest Resources.

"*Tracks* is a pilgrimage through the wild, beautiful and lonely places around us," Jackson said. "Its purpose is to invite readers to share the trail and discover connections to different vistas not only in the South, but also in distant lands and on exotic waters.

"I've attempted to bring into focus the natural thrill of participating fully as part of the chain of life in wild places," added the avid hunter, fisherman and trapper.

Jackson said proceeds from the book sales will be used to support the fisheries program in MSU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Earlier this year, he was elected second vice president of the American Fisheries Society and will become its president in 2009. He also currently serves as president of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation and chair of the American Fisheries Hurricane Relief Task Force.

An Arkansas native, Jackson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and a doctorate from Auburn University.

Helping Children Aim High

Sheran Watkins, third from right, recently received the 2006 National Association of 4-H Agents Air Force Aim High Award. As the 4-H youth development agent in Harrison County, Watkins has worked with Air Force staff to establish 4-H clubs on bases and to provide support of children of deployed service members. She has provided training and professional development opportunities to Air Force staff and has integrated these military programs and youth into the ongoing 4-H Extension programs in her county. Watkins is shown helping children at Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi prepare a parents' appreciation dinner.



Jim Lytle