



MSU Faculty Artist Offers Work to Support Conservation Group

By Karen Brasher

A new painting by Mississippi State associate professor Jeanne Jones is benefiting the Bear Education and Restoration (BEaR) program in the state.

Sales of the artist's limited edition signed and numbered prints of a mother bear with two cubs help fund the Rolling Fork-

based nonprofit organization. Founded in 2004, BEaR works to conserve healthy populations of black bears throughout the Magnolia State.

Jones, an MSU doctoral graduate, is a wildlife and fisheries faculty member at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The 2004 birth in Mississippi of two cubs—the first such documented event in more than 40 years—inspired her painting. The work captures the elusive, federally protected species in one of its native habitats, along the river's edge in a bottomland hardwood forest.

Until nearly a century ago, black bears were prevalent throughout the state. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt's refusal to kill a captured bear while hunting near Rolling Fork resulted, over time, in the national popularization of teddy bear toys as much-sought gifts for children of all ages.

The animals' decline in Mississippi was due, in large part, to habitat alteration and overharvest. Efforts in recent years to restore habitats and pass protective laws have reflected changing public attitudes about the native species.

Prints of Jones' work are \$50 each, plus \$5 for shipping and handling. Orders may be completed via the BEaR Web site (www.msbear.org/).

Along with a print, purchasers receive a free, one-year membership in the organization.



Vance Watson, left, and David Waide

New Scholarship Honors Support for Agriculture

By Bob Ratliff

A new endowed scholarship has been established at Mississippi State University in honor of Mississippi Farm Bureau President David Waide of West Point.

The scholarship is in recognition of Waide's commitment to and efforts on behalf of Mississippi agriculture, said Vance

Watson, MSU vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine.

"David is passionate about the value of agriculture to Mississippi and its importance in the success of this nation," Watson said. "He and the entire Farm Bureau organization work hard to support Mississippi's farmers and to educate the public about the role agriculture plays in our economy, the nation's security and our personal well-being."

Waide has served as the Mississippi Farm Bureau president since 1995. He is a row crop and cattle producer in Clay County and previously served as director of the Federal Land Bank of Houston, director of the Mississippi Soil and Water Commission and chairman of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank. He and his wife, Sandra, have two children, Whit and Linda Bess.

Candidates for the David Waide Endowed Scholarship must be full-time undergraduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or the College of Forest Resources at MSU. Priority will be given to sons or daughters of Mississippi Farm Bureau members.

The scholarship is an open fund in the MSU Foundation and may be increased through contributions to the foundation. For additional information on the Waide Endowed Scholarship, contact Jud Skelton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences development director, at (662) 325-0643.