

# Crossties

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

The Magazine For Producers And Users Of Treated Wood Crossties And Related Products.

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Mabry Forestry Scholarships Given To Exceptional Students

## Agan Believes In Wise Use Of Natural Resources

By Alison Mitchell

Leigh Agan said she has always had an interest in the outdoors. "I was fortunate enough to grow up in the country, surrounded by pastureland and forestland," she said. A senior in the Warnell School of Forest Resources at the University of Georgia, Agan said her family believes in the "wise use of resources." Agan is a recipient of one of two John Mabry Forestry Scholarships for 2002-2003.



"When I had the chance to pursue a college degree, I decided to stick to my roots and earn a degree in the field of forestry," Agan said. "Through this experience, I hope to be an educated and responsible user of our natural resources and, in turn, do my part to educate and instill these values in others."

To that end, Agan spent time working as a resource education volunteer for the National Park Service in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where she assisted visitors with information about the park and its flora and fauna.

Agan said she believes that because society will always demand timber products for its everyday needs, society must find efficient ways of utilizing the resources of the forest. The keys to this efficient use of resources are research, education and experience, she said.

In addition to working on her degree in forestry, Agan is a member of Xi Sigma Pi National Forestry Honor Society. She is also the secretary of the Forestry Club and chairperson of the Society of American Foresters Student Chapter at the University of Georgia. After graduation, Agan said she plans to pursue a career in forest resources with a concentration on the timber industry. §

## Sullivan Planted Management Roots At An Early Age

By Alison Mitchell

Long before he began formal training in wood products management and business at Mississippi State University, Brian Sullivan plotted a course toward becoming a manager in forest products. "Owning my own business and supervising other workers began my career in management at an early age," Sullivan said. "I feel that these experiences will serve me well as I begin a career in the wood industry."



Sullivan is one of the recipients of RTA's John Mabry Forestry Scholarships for 2002-2003.

In addition to being an assistant manager at a foliage business in Mize, Miss., where he planted, maintained and harvested field crops, Sullivan owned and managed his own lawn service business, where he recruited and developed a customer base, managed the finances, maintained and repaired equipment, and supervised employees.

Sullivan said he feels that "it is very important to gain as much experience as possible in the wood products industry" while he completes his degrees. As such, for the past year Sullivan has worked in the Wood Products Lab at Mississippi State. "This experience has allowed me to work with treatments, strength property tests and many other projects in the lab," he said. Additionally, Sullivan spent the summer doing an internship with the Weyerhaeuser Company in Athens, Ga., in the quality control division.

One of Sullivan's life-long goals is to obtain a management-level position in the wood products industry, possibly in the furniture business. "At the present time, I am leaning toward the furniture industry, and I hope to continue to explore the possibility of this specialty during my next year" in school. Sullivan's future plans also include obtaining a master's degree in business. §

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