A photograph of a bird's nest in a tree. The nest is built from a complex structure of dry sticks and twigs, situated in the fork of a tree branch. A single bird is perched within the nest, its head tilted upwards and its beak open as if calling or singing. The background is filled with lush green leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Alabama's TREASURED Forests

F a l l • 1 9 8 8

STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

by C.W. MOODY



We had another outstanding Landowner Conference. A record number of TREASURE Forest Landowners attended, thanks to the great work of James Hughes and his committee. They did an outstanding job of coordinating the landowner portion of the conference and communicating the value of attending to TREASURE Forest and other landowners. James was assisted by Chuck Lewis, Larry Trotter, Ed McCullers, and many others. All who attended are much better informed regarding the management of their hardwood timber stands as well as manipulation of forest stands to enhance wildlife habitat. I use this means to express sincere thanks to all who had a part in the conference.

There is another exciting program developing in Alabama which is totally consistent with TREASURE Forest ideals. Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS) is a nonprofit grass roots organization dedicated to the prevention and control of litter in Alabama. This worthy organization interacts with communities, cities, counties, and other control programs. Talladega County was the first county chapter. Judge Derrell Hann has done an outstanding job of developing and carrying out a litter control program for Talladega County. Sheriff Studdard is also to be commended for his work in employing a deputy whose full-time job is that of litter law enforcement. Deputy Travis Ford not only carries on his duties in Talladega County, but serves as chairman of the Alabama PALS Law Enforcement Committee and is available for consultation to other law enforcement agencies in political subdivisions in Alabama. Efforts such as those in Talladega County are beginning to clean up our forests as well as make our cities and roadsides more beautiful.

There is a write-up concerning this organization inside the magazine. I would encourage everyone who has interest to become a member and get involved in this worthy organization.

The Alabama Reunion is shaping up to be an outstanding event for Alabama. Next year, 1989, is the year of celebration in which all Alabamians are encouraged to set up a reunion event and celebrate the joy and privilege of being Alabamians. We will be working with them on setting up a major celebration next year for forestry. Nothing more exemplifies the spirit of Alabama and Alabamians than TREASURE Forests and TREASURE Forest landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C.W. Moody". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

C.W. Moody
State Forester

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John Goodson, Jr. Claude S. Swift

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The Alabama Forestry Commission supports the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee's TREASURE Forest Program. This magazine is intended to further encourage participation in and acceptance of this program by landowners in the state. Any of the agencies listed above may be contacted for further information about the TREASURE Forest program.

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Cover Photo: One of Nature's most fascinating events was captured on film by Mike Whitt on Lake Jordan near Wetumpka.

Alabama's TREASURED Forests

Volume VII

Fall Issue, 1988

Number 4

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BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THOSE TO FOLLOW

by KIM GILLILAND, Managing Editor

Managing 500 acres of land is a formidable task for anyone. But what if you lived 550 miles away? That is the situation confronted by Bennie Brown, who owns land in Northeast Morgan County near the town of Somerville. Brown has lived in Chicago for a number of years, but still has an interest in managing his land in Alabama.

Absentee Management

An absentee landowner faces a problem that is unique. He can't go out

to his land whenever he wants and show someone where he needs a fence or where he wants to plant a food plot. He can't inspect conditions of a road. He has to find someone he trusts to manage the land. He needs to know that the property is being utilized correctly—to gain a profit from timber and to insure the wildlife needs are met.

Brown's property had been rented to a farmer for several years, but Brown wanted his property to be useful in the years to come in several different areas. For Bennie Brown the person to turn to

was Roger Nichols, Morgan County forester, who nominated Brown to be a TREASURE Forest landowner in 1987. Nichols made several suggestions, one of which was that Brown find someone who could manage the land for him. Nichols also suggested that trees be planted on his cropland, but Brown wanted to have a steady income. That's when Nichols told him about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The program seemed tailor-made for someone like Brown, who had erosion problems on part of the land but who also wanted a profit.

For the actual day to day managing of the land, Brown leased it to Huey Long. Long is a timber procurement manager for Tolleson Lumber Company and has a 10-year lease with Brown, which allows his Cotaco Bend Hunting Club to use the land. The club is named after the Cotaco Creek which runs behind the property. For the first three years of the contract, Long will make improvements to the land out of his own pocket. After 1988, he will begin making yearly rental payments to Brown. The eight other members in the club help with the work on the property.

Management Strategy

The property is being managed under the guidelines of the TREASURE Forest program as well as the CRP. To date, 107 acres have been planted under the program. Long says that two main objectives are timber and wildlife. "Our objective, and Mr. Brown's, is to establish a sustained yield multiple use forest. By 1995 we ought to start developing a timber return annually." The timber, Long says, is to be achieved through planting and natural regeneration of pine stands. He plans to retain hardwoods for wildlife food. "We don't want to create a pure pine stand in detriment to wildlife," he said. "We're seriously interested in improving the wildlife habitat." Plans are to retain wildlife openings in pine stands, and for every five acres of hardwood converted to pine, they plan to leave one acre of hardwood.

As far as wildlife is concerned, waterfowl takes primary consideration. An 18-acre pond was made by constructing a dam, and corn was planted in the shallow area. This pond is excellent for the birds who flock to feed there. In a buffer of trees that divide the pond, a two-story hunting stand, cleverly called the "penthouse," has been built. There is no deer hunting at this time, but Long



One of the tombstones in the small cemetery.

firebreaks this year, Long plans to put in new ones. He also plans to string 2,000 additional feet of fencing and convert 30 acres of open land to pine trees.

Roots in the South

Although Brown lives in Chicago now, his roots are in Alabama. He was born in Athens, and since his father was a minister and had to move often, the family lived all over the state. The land, which originally belonged to his great-grandfather Gus Breeding, was passed down through his family. Brown attained the property from his mother and her sister in the early 1960's. Although he hasn't lived in Alabama since his late teens, the land still has a tremendous meaning to him. When he visits, which is several times a year, Brown likes to go out to his property and think about past times. "I like the outdoors. I always have."

Brown has fond memories of visiting the land as a child with his mother, who was a teacher. He said many afternoons were spent riding in a horse and buggy to the property and then picking blackberries and muscadines.

In a small thicket, there is a reminder of that time long ago, before Brown was even born. A cemetery where some of his ancestors are buried is part of the

property. Approximately 20 people are buried on the plot. Most of the tombstones are blank, and some are just piles of rock with a headstone, but one reads "Sam L. Breeding, May 2, 1833, May 22, 1908; Eliza F. Breeding Born Mar. 14, 1848." The cemetery has been cleared off several times and is one place that is special to Brown when he visits.

Looking around the property, one may notice the TREASURE Forest sign is not found. Brown is so proud of his status as a TREASURE Forest landowner, that he took the sign to his office in Chicago.

Brown hopes that the land will stay in his family. Plans are to divide it among his children. He is looking forward to bringing his three grandchildren to visit so that they may enjoy the outdoors and feel a part of their heritage. "I think we're going to have a good future here."

Part of Brown's philosophy is that the older generation needs to conserve so that future generations can also enjoy our resources, something he calls "building bridges for those to follow." He hopes that the improvements he has made will serve as building blocks in the future. "Somebody's got to take an interest in farming," he said, "and I hope it continues."

says he wants to start managing for them eventually.

Since he lives so far away, Brown has to be in constant communication with Nichols and Long. "Trying to manage land long distance has been the hardest thing to do," Nichols said. Brown gives a good deal of credit to Nichols. "He has helped generate my interest," Brown said. The landowner trusts Long's judgement in making changes because he is the one with experience, but he keeps a close watch and always wants to know when they are made.

The improvements Long has made are easy to see. In addition to the pond, roads have been cleared to ease passage, and fences and gates have been constructed. Culverts have been installed for better drainage.

Fifty-one acres of improved loblolly pine were planted in March 1987, while two naturally regenerated stands are between two and five years old. All total, there are 326 acres of timber producing land. According to Long, some timber should be cut within the next year, and he would like to be able to sell some hardwood pulpwood next spring.

In addition to clearing existing



Waterfowl flock to the man-made pond.

EDITOR'S UNDERSTORY

by KIM GILLILAND, Managing Editor

Bennie Brown's ancestors came to America from England in the early 1800's. One of those was Gus Breeding, who along with some family members, built a three-story home on the property that now belongs to Brown. After Breeding passed away, his will was contested by members of his family. In the will, the white man had left a portion of the estate to his son, Millard W. Breeding—a black minister and Brown's grandfather. The will was upheld, though, and today the majority of that land, some 500 acres, belongs to Brown. His sister and nephew own a small part of the property.

Brown was born in Athens, Alabama, and lived in Decatur and Bessemer, among other places, while he was growing up. His mother was a teacher and his father a Christian Methodist Episcopal minister, so the family moved quite often. His sister was a concert pianist, and Bennie himself played the violin.

Music was to be a large part of his life. He attended Talledega College for a short period of time, and after a summer job at a hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan, he was able to obtain a scholarship to the University of Iowa. There he majored in romance languages and music, playing violin in the school orchestra. He continued his love of music, playing the violin in orchestras in DeMoine, Iowa and Tacoma, Washington.

After college, he was employed by the National Youth Administration to train youth for better jobs. He helped raise money to send young people to college, while also making sure they were treated equally. "I insisted that it be interracial at all places," he said. While living in Omaha, Brown met his wife Lila, whom he married in 1940. They have two children—Bennie Jr. who is a



lawyer, and Catherine Brown Vattiste, a teacher.

A position as executive director of the Army/Navy YMCA saw Brown and his wife stationed in Tacoma, Washington, Portland, Oregon, and San Diego. A chance to work for his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, brought him to Chicago.

Brown was concerned about the opportunities for minorities in Chicago, and tried to help integrate the city by finding them jobs. He would call on large

corporations and try to persuade them to give minorities an equal chance at employment.

A few years later, he was instrumental in organizing the Chicago Conference of Brotherhood. Presently he is the executive director for this philanthropic organization. Through speaking engagements to the organization, Brown has met many famous people, including former President Jimmy Carter and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Being active in the Conference brought him close to former Chicago Mayors Richard Daley and Harold Washington.

Brown is still active in Alpha Phi Alpha. He recently attended an international convention, where he took pictures and mementos to display, along with his TREASURE Forest sign.

One can easily see how proud Brown is to be part of the TREASURE Forest program. He is a gentle man, who when asked if he ever hunted on the property, revealed a story that is true to his nature.

Brown said that on one visit, he donned hunting gear and waited in the forest. Finally, he saw a deer and aimed to shoot. "He looked at me as if he trusted me," Brown said. "I just couldn't shoot." Brown will no doubt leave the hunting to Huey Long and the Cotaco Bend Hunting Club!

Living in a city as large as Chicago can make a person appreciate the rural outdoors more than the average person. Brown is interested in managing his land so that his family after him can enjoy it. He says he hopes that no one ever sells it. He has good people helping him, and knowing that, he can live outside Alabama and feel that his property is in excellent hands. ♣



Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Bennie Brown were members of opposing debate teams in college—Brown from the University of Iowa and Humphrey from the University of Minnesota.

Perspective on TREASURE Forest

by JAMES HUGHES

We had a preacher once who would say, "All I know to do is to beat on the pulpit and brag on Jesus." When the subject of forestry comes up, all I know to do is to brag on the folks of the Alabama Forestry Commission. You took a family that knew nothing about forestry and started us off in the right direction. You taught, encouraged, and worked with us—your influence is evident all around us and we will always be grateful to you. During the 80's we have built a relationship with some of you that's more than just an advisor-landowner relationship. It's one you share with people who care for each other.

You taught us how to invest in timberland and about the returns to come in the years ahead. As we approach the close of a decade of timber stand improvement, we give thanks to God that the returns on our investments are not just the money expected from sales of 15, 23, and 35 years, but daily. Our returns are seeing the baby rabbits running ahead of you as you cut the fire lanes; the deer at the edge of the woods watching you; the dove flying, as if hurt, away from its young; a bluebird on her eggs that doesn't even fly as you check her house, or bids you good morning from the clothes line; finding a hawk's nest in a tall, old pine; the fast heartbeat you get when a covey of quail fly from under your feet—and the excitement of seeing a pair in your flower bed.

All the wild flowers, many we miss because they are so small, or because our mind is filled with thoughts we would be better off without; the shape and shade of a big, old oak (thank goodness timber people say it has no value); who would think a thing as small as a hummingbird could bring such big joy?

The beauty of a red bird eating at your window sill. We don't talk much as we sit on the porch in the early morning having our coffee, but oh, how we enjoy the things around us, especially all that chatter from the martins. We surely

would like to know what all that talk is about.

Thank you for helping us get started in this business and we praise the Lord that we don't have to wait 35 years for

payday—it's ours daily, just for the taking.

Taken from a speech delivered at the 1988 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Forestry Commission.



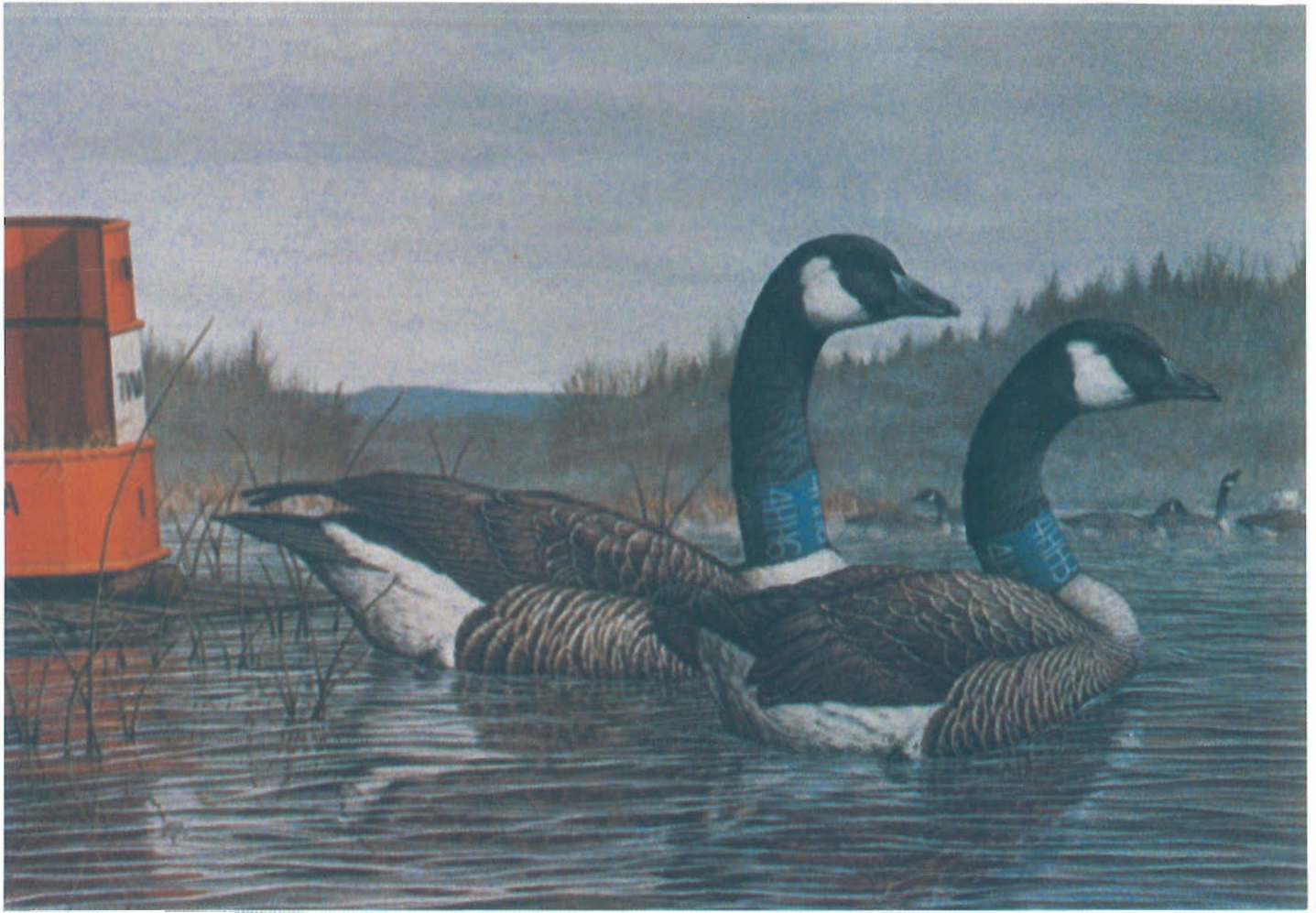
James Hughes, TREASURE Forest landowner, and Tracy Lawrence, Houston County.

In Memorium

Albert Hardage died July 11, 1988. He was 60 years old. Hardage worked for the Alabama Forestry Commission for 31 years, and was county supervisor in Covington County.

Hunter Reynolds, who worked for the AFC for 35 years, died in April at the age of 74. He retired in 1976 and served as supervisor in Clarke County.

Both men gave outstanding service to the AFC and the state of Alabama. They will be missed.



Canada Geese — Going South

by DAVID A. HOGUE, Productivity Forester

Our vast flocks of waterfowl have great meaning for those of us who live in North America. The change of seasons would somehow not be the same if there were no V-formations of geese to herald the departure of summer or the arrival of spring. Many of us look forward to the days of autumn spent hunting with good companions and well-trained dogs. Many more enjoy simply watching ducks in a pond.

However, all is not well with our waterfowl populations. Many are significantly lower now than they were just ten years ago. Reduced numbers of individual species such as mallards, black ducks, and pintails are of special concern. In an effort to reverse this trend, the United States and Canadian governments have signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan which



sets forth a course of action for the two countries to take between now and the year 2000 to assure the continued survival of abundant populations of ducks, geese, and swans.

The work of national governments alone will not be enough, however. Rather, in order for this great conservation effort to succeed, it will require strong commitment, creativity, and hard work by regional and local governments, private organizations, businesses, and individual citizens—hunters and non-hunters alike. Many of us are already aware of the work that organizations such as Ducks Unlimited have done in the area of waterfowl conservation. Recently, it was my pleasure to observe firsthand what a group here in Alabama is doing.

About five years ago, a group of dedi-

cated conservationists living in north Alabama got together and formed the Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association (TVWA). The primary objectives of the group are to locate a resident flock of giant Canada geese in the Tennessee Valley, to begin a mallard duck stocking program for the area, and to preserve and encourage the protection of wetland habitat for all wildlife species, particularly waterfowl. As part of the Canada geese project, breeding pairs of geese will be released on selected TREASURE Forest land-owners' properties in the area. Criteria for selection of sites will be based on the presence of suitable habitat. Currently, the 300-member association is making substantial progress in achieving those objectives.

Since the summer of 1987 when 38 giant Canada geese (the Greg W. Myers Flock) were released at the North Sauty Refuge in Jackson County, the TVWA has released a total of 438 of these geese in north Alabama. In addition to the original 38 geese obtained from a private individual, 220 giant Canadas were acquired from the State of Illinois, and 180 more from the State of Michigan. The geese were collected up north as three-year-old or older birds during the moult and transported to Alabama by cattle trailer. The manner of acquisition and the logistical problems encountered during transportation is a complete story in itself. Besides North Sauty, TVWA has released geese at Conner's Island, Paint Rock River, North Elk River, Brown's Creek, Fort Payne,

Sylacauga, and a site in Lawrence County. These releases supplement several goose stockings by the Alabama Game and Fish Division on the Tennessee River and other sites.

On July 7, 1988, TVWA concluded its release program for the year. On this day 1,160 mallard ducks were released at seven sites in the Tennessee Valley. This is the first large scale wild mallard duck release project ever in Alabama. Obtained as one day old ducklings from the Oak Ridge Game Farm in Gravette, Arkansas, the mallards were reared according to the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation's guidelines until their release 29 days later.

The rearing of the mallards was facilitated by the construction of a rearing pen on the grounds of the Alabama Forestry Commission's Marshall County Office in Guntersville. Larry Parker of the Forestry Commission reported that the project would not have been possible without the support of local businesses in the area supplying the raw materials necessary for the construction of the rearing pen and an estimated 200 pounds of feed consumed daily by the ducklings.

Under the guidance of David Hayden with the Alabama Game and Fish Division, the gender of the ducklings was determined and they were banded at the Guntersville site. They were released there and at Paint Rock River in Marshall County, North Sauty Refuge in Jackson County, Elk River in Limestone County and in Morgan and Lawrence Counties.

Supporting these restocking efforts,

TVWA has built and put out fifteen floating nesting structures. In an effort to help wood duck populations in the area, TVWA has also built and installed sixty wood duck nesting boxes. TVWA has also set aside 240 acres of wetland habitat for the Paint Rock River Refuge with a full-time manager.

Funding for these projects comes from member contributions, sport and leisure sales, and the sale of an exclusive print by John Warr, 1987 winner of the Alabama Duck Stamp Contest, depicting the release of two of the geese belonging to the Greg W. Myers flock entitled "The Beginning." In addition, TVWA is incorporated, has tax exempt status, and encourages private contributions.

For more information about the Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Incorporated contact:

Jerry Davis, Director
Tennessee Valley
Waterfowl Association
Post Office Box 262
Guntersville, Alabama 35976
Telephone (205) 837-7939

Largely through the efforts of dedicated conservationists, such as those comprising the TVWA and the support of local businesses, the frequent sightings of giant Canada geese and mallard ducks may be a common occurrence in Alabama. Should their efforts prove successful, the members of the TVWA can take great pride in preserving this TREASURE of Alabama. ♣

ALABAMA PALS Appoints Executive Director

Spencer Ryan, 33, has been named Executive director of Alabama PALS, People Against a Littered State. PALS is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is the beautification of Alabama through the elimination of our state's litter problem.

Ryan was formerly with Bambi Leasing, serving as their district manager in Montgomery. He feels that his outdoor hobbies of hunting and fishing have made him all too aware of the litter problems in Alabama. "I feel like the time to do something about it is now."

PALS works with individuals, groups and organizations to assist them in establishing and implementing long-term litter programs. Education, civic involve-

ment, law enforcement, recycling, legislation and youth involvement are the areas of concentration.

The ultimate goal, Ryan says, is for cities and counties to be designated as Proud PALS Cities and Counties. A portfolio is available through the PALS State Office with step-by-step procedures necessary for such designation. "Through the programs and resources available through PALS, this organization can be a vehicle towards eliminating the litter problem in Alabama," Ryan said.

Write to PALS, 46 Commerce St., Montgomery, AL 36104; telephone (205) 263-7737. ♣



Spencer Ryan

Alabama Woods Arson Report

by WALTER VEST, Chief, Law Enforcement

Woods arsonists—who are they? They are tall and they are short; they are young and they are old; they are male and female. Investigators have no profile on them. They do have one thing in common—they are “arsonists.”

During the eight-year period of 1979-87, Alabama averaged 7,586 fires a year and 125,678 acres burned. Fifty-two percent of these fires were started each year by arsonists.

Some of these fires are set by dis-

gruntled hunters because a landowner refused to let them hunt on his property. Some are set because the arsonists get a kick out of seeing the flames and watching the fire fighters battle the blaze. Some are set to cover other crimes like drugs. Some are set out of frustration or revenge.

Whatever the reason, every citizen of Alabama should be concerned about arson and wildfires because they pose a threat to our residents, degrade the environment, drain money from our

tax fund, and deplete a valuable state resource.

A new approach to encourage the public to report arson is being used by the Alabama Forestry Commission. In cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Association, the Forestry Commission has set up a secret witness toll-free number.

In the past, the Alabama Forestry Association has paid an award for information about arsonists, but only after the person was convicted of the charge. Under the guidelines established by the Association and the Forestry Commission, an Alabama Woods Arson Report (AWAR) call is “any call in which a citizen reports a suspected or specific violation of the forest fire laws and renders sufficient information from which investigators can work.” When these calls are received, the dispatcher will take the caller’s information in detail, being careful to record all information. If the caller wishes to remain anonymous, a code number will be assigned at that time. If the caller does not request anonymity, his name, address, and telephone number will be recorded. All Alabama Woods Arson Reports are confidential and are given appropriate security.

The amount of the reward offered under this program is \$25 to \$500 depending on the value the investigator placed on the information.

Anyone wishing to report an arsonist using the hot line should call 1-800-222-2927 (1-800-222-AWAR). ♣



The Wildland/Urban Interface

by RICHARD CUMBIE, Protection Division Director

With the ever increasing pressures, stress, and fast pace of today’s society, it is no wonder that more individuals are turning to the peace and solitude of the forest to build their homes. Small country properties and subdivisions with 10-40 acre lots are one of the hottest items in today’s real estate market.

However, along with the peace and quiet comes the added danger of wildfire. When a wildfire moves through the woods, it doesn’t care if the fuel is limbs and brush or houses and cars. More and more fire fighters are measuring the severity of fires by the number of structures threatened or burned.

In Alabama we average over 7,500

wildfires annually. Chances are good that if your house is in a wooded area, a wildfire has or will occur nearby.

It is time that these homeowners take a serious look at their problem. They must take responsibility for some of their own fire protection.

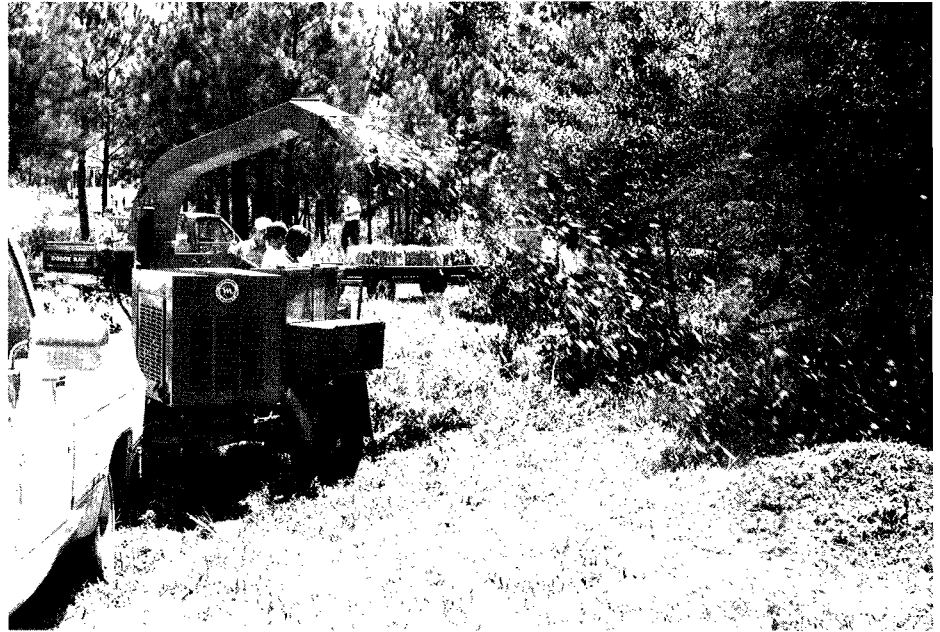
Many rural areas have no codes for fire safe structures. It is just “good sense” for a person to gather information on how to make the structure as “fire safe” as possible before building or buying a home in such an area. Local fire departments, Home Builders Association, and the Alabama Forestry Commission are good sources for such information. Contact these organizations before it’s too late. ♣

Food for Thought

- Is brush cleared an adequate distance from house?
- Will access roads allow evacuation and access for fire vehicles?
- Is area protected by a fire department?
- Is the home marked where fire department can locate it?
- Is the home constructed with a fire problem in mind?
- Is firewood stacked too close to the house?
- Is chimney properly equipped with a spark arresting device?

5th Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowners Conference

The 5th Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowners Conference was held August 12-13 in Montgomery, with the largest landowner turnout ever. For the benefit of those who did not attend the event this year, most of the articles in this issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* are taken from presentations given at the conference.



This chipper was among the demonstrations at the outdoor portion of the conference, held at the Jim Wilson Farm in Macon County.



Dozier, left, and Ozier Slay receive the District Helene Mosley Award from State Conservationist Ernest Todd. The Slay brothers also won the state award.



The Macon County Forestry Planning Committee wins the state award. Pictured with them is Gov. Guy Hunt, center.



Young and old alike enjoyed the field day.

The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee would like to thank the following firms and individuals for donating prizes for the TREASURE Hunt at the Fifth Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowners Conference.

- | | |
|---|---|
| WALMART
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| Fish World, Inc.
Eufaula, Alabama | American Cyanamid—Rick Iverson |

A Reforestation Survey of Butler, Wilcox, and Monroe Counties Using Satellite Remote Sensing

by STANLEY R. ANDERSON, Alabama Forestry Commission
WILLIAM C. JONES, Alabama Forestry Association

This survey began as a project of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee's Productivity Subcommittee. Funding for purchase of materials and technical services were provided by the Alabama Forestry Association's Productivity Committee.

The purpose for the survey and selection of counties is a result of a special request for information by Monroe County's Forestry Committee. A need existed for determining the number of acres regenerated after harvest.

In February 1987, members of the AFPC Productivity Subcommittee visited the Space Remote Sensing Center NSTL Station near Bay St. Louis, MS to learn about forestry applications of remote sensing. At the time, most of the satellite information was available on computer tape and not in a usable form for the survey.

Technical Procedure

In June 1987, George May and Chuck Hill from the Center offered an opportunity to use new equipment and technology for mapping satellite images onto larger scale maps and topographic quadrangle sheets. Imagery and interpretation of this study area was negotiated at a reasonable cost. AFA purchased a satellite image taken on January 20, 1986, which covers an area from Marion, Alabama to Tuskegee National Forest south to Geneva State Forest and west to Tensaw, Alabama.

This covered an area of approximately 115 miles by 110 miles. The Space Remote Sensing Center used a new mapping machine to project clearcuts and partial cuts identified by a photo interpreter onto 7½ minute topographic quadrangle sheets. On approximately half of the topo sheets, the Center was capable of using a modified geological information system to digitize, plot and calculate the acreage of these harvested areas.

Field Procedure

After the AFPC Productivity Subcommittee received the topographic maps, Chairman Jerry Johnson appointed field crews to select field samples and visit at least 25 cut over areas in each county. These tracts consisted of both private non-industrial and industrial ownerships. Information on method of site preparation, stand age and a brief description of existing stand was recorded at each cut over site. A sample of 87 clear cuts and partial cuts was visited from a total of 822 cut over acres. The sample area consisted of 13,272 acres and total harvested area is estimated to be 104,000 acres (TABLE I). Those working on the field data collection included Ron True, Alabama River Woodlands; Dave Becker, Champion International Corporation; David Hoge, Alabama Forestry Commission; Stanley Anderson, Alabama Forestry Commission; and Bill Jones, Alabama Forestry Association.

Data Summary

After completing the field procedure, the data were divided into adequacy of stand regeneration, method of site preparation, type cut and number of

acres. Stand regeneration was determined to be adequate if the existing stand contained at least 300 stems per acre of pine or desirable hardwood species. Marginal stands contained less than 300 to 150 stems per acre and were not adequate if the stand contained less than 150 desirable stems per acre (FIGURE 1).

Methods of site preparation were classified in the medium to heavy site prep classification if a combination of chemical and mechanical site prep or mechanical site prep only was used. Seventy-five percent of the sample area was regenerated using medium to heavy site prep methods. Light site preparation was classified as chemical site prep, prescribed burning, a combination of the two or either used singly. Approximately nine percent of the sample area used was reforested using these methods. Natural regeneration methods included lands that had been reforested by seed tree, shelterwood or other natural methods. Natural regeneration accounted for approximately six percent of the reforested area. The other two remaining categories consisted of nonregenerated areas, nine percent by area, and converted areas approximately two

TABLE I

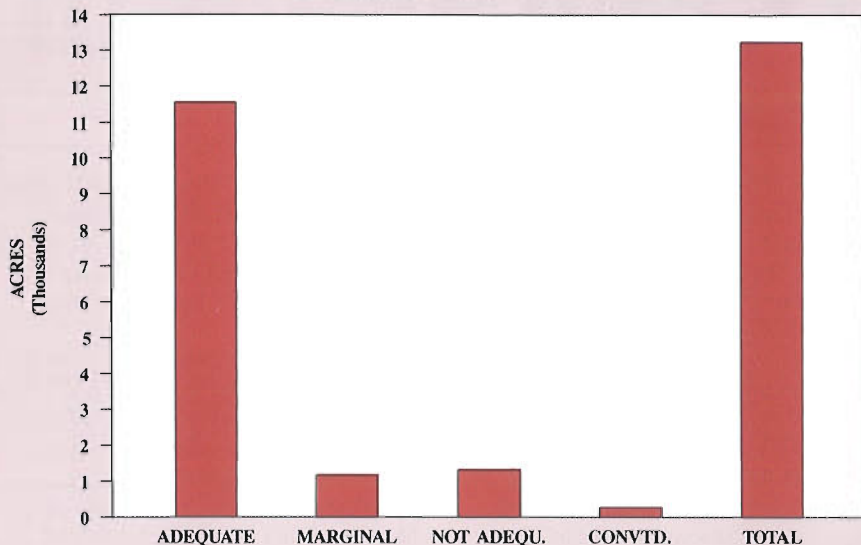
Reforestation Survey Sample Results

Survey Area	Total Survey Sites	Acres Samples	Total Cut Over Sites Identified	Av. Size Per Cut	Total Estimated Harvested Area	Total Forest Acres in Survey Area
Butler, Wilcox and Monroe Counties	87	13,272 acres	822	127 acres	104,394 acres	1,320,500 acres

*Survey results based on satellite imagery taken by Landsat 5, January 20, 1986, Space Remote Sensing Center, NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529.

FIGURE I

**ADEQUACY OF REGENERATION
IN REFORESTATION STUDY**



percent of the area. In the converted category, timberland was converted to another land use which included nursery expansion, pastureland and beaver ponds (FIGURE 2).

Age distribution was classified for each age class up to four years of stand age. Some five year old plantations were included in the four year age class (FIGURE 3). The nonregenerated

class contained cut over areas that were cut between 1984 and January 1986.

In checking the accuracy of the interpretation of clear cuts from the satellite imagery, 1986 National High Altitude Photographs were used as a comparison. The satellite method detected 127 clear cuts, while the NHAP photographs detected 135 clear cuts for the same area. Another reason for checking the satellite

method with NHAP photographs was to insure the satellite method did not neglect nonregenerated cut over areas.

Summary

Satellite imagery can be used to effectively determine clear cut and partially cut tracts of forestland. Once identified by a photo interpreter, these areas can be plotted on topographic maps and acreage can be calculated. After transferring this information to topo maps, land ownership determination and field inspection can be facilitated. From this point, county reforestation committees can use this information to identify adequacy of regeneration after harvest and to make follow up contact with landowners.

The survey data indicated an excellent reforestation effort by industry and the reforestation committees in this three county area. This data, however, is not intended for use as a representation of reforestation activities in other counties of Alabama.

This survey indicates an aggressive reforestation effort after harvest in Butler, Wilcox, and Monroe Counties and credit should go to area industries, agencies, and forestry community members responsible for reforestation activities.

*This article reprinted from the January-February, 1988 issue of **Alabama Forests**, a publication of the Alabama Forestry Association.*

FIGURE II

**SITE PREP AND REGENERATION METHODS
USED IN REFORESTATION STUDY**

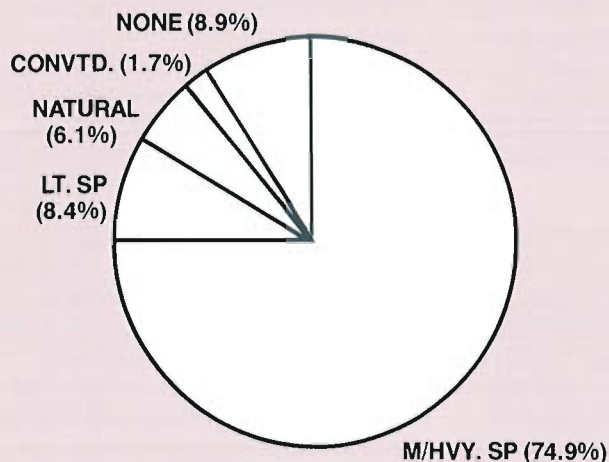
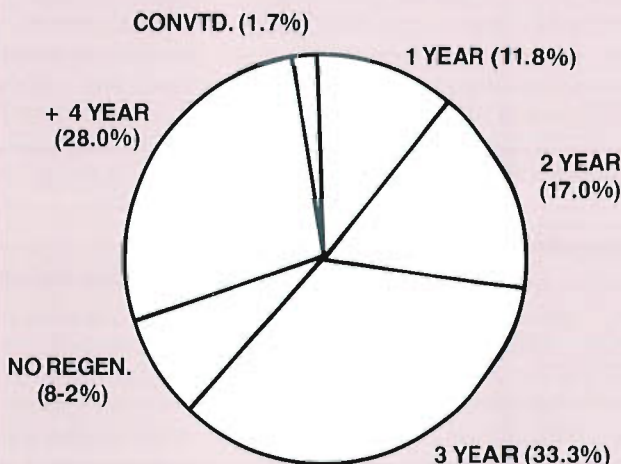


FIGURE III

**AGE DISTRIBUTION
REGENERATION STUDY USING
SATELLITE DATA**



Own Your Own Sawmill

by JEFF LASKOWSKI, Executive Vice President, Wood-Mizer®

All small woodlot owners see something different when looking at their property. It may be a spot to build a quiet hideaway, a place for nature to flourish. For some it may be security for retirement as land prices continue to rise. Many view their woodlot as an investment in standing timber or logs. One select group of people sees another asset within their grasp when they scan their property—lumber. A growing number of small woodlot owners are becoming members of an ever increasing group of people who own their own sawmill.

Recent developments in small sawmills have made the possibility of owning and operating a mill more practical than ever. The new generation of bandsaw sawmills opens up the greatest opportunities for a woodlot owner with no milling background. The new mills are safer, require less horsepower, are easier to operate, portable, and yield accurate dimensional lumber.

The leading manufacturer of bandsaw mills, with over 5000 units operating in the field, is **WOOD-MIZER®** Products, Inc. in Indianapolis, Indiana. A recent **WOOD-MIZER®** survey showed that the largest group of mill owners was farmers and ranchers (most owning woodlots), with the next largest group of **WOOD-MIZER®** owners being retirees. The survey also showed that over half of the owners use their mills to generate income on a part-time basis and over 10% of the mill owners use them as their primary source of income. We took a closer look at the various applications made by these small woodlot owners.

No Experience Necessary

"I had no previous experience sawing lumber," states Jim Starr of Columbia, Missouri. "I'm very satisfied with my sawmill and have learned to cut quality lumber." This statement is true of three quarters of the people buying **WOOD-MIZERS®**. Because most new owners are inexperienced sawyers, free schooling is held for persons buying a **WOOD-**

MIZER®. The classes cover general mill operations, mill safety, maintenance, and blade sharpening. Every mill owner actually sharpens a blade and cuts with his mill *before* leaving the factory school. "We feel that hands-on training and operations of his own mill are the most important step in introducing the new owner to sawmilling," according to Dave Mann, sales manager for **WOOD-MIZER®** Products. "In many cases the closest these men have come to being a sawyer is cutting a little firewood."

The ability to quickly become adept to operation of the mill is echoed by owner, Jan Gisslen, of Cincinnati, Ohio, "The very nice thing with the mill is that you can start making good lumber basically right from the start. It does not take years of experience to saw dimensionally correct boards." The guarded bandsaw blade is also much safer for a new operator than a four- or five-foot diameter circular blade with four times as much horsepower.

With enough drive, a first-time operator can accomplish something as major as Jim Starr. Three years after purchasing his sawmill, he now lives in a 2,000 square foot log cabin he literally built from scratch. He cut 2,500 linear feet of logs and thousands of feet of dimensional lumber from 200 acres of timber on his father's 400 acre farm. The flooring, paneling, doors, cabinets, window trim, door frames, baseboard, and even most of the furnishings were made from lumber he cut—quite an accomplishment when you consider he felt his only qualification for operating a mill was being "very comfortable with a chainsaw."

Selective Harvesting

Most woodlot owners have heard of the destruction caused by a large logging operation in removing a "few" select trees. Some of the stories are more than a little exaggerated, but it is true that the large equipment can do significant damage. Removal of some timber is required just to get the equipment in and

out of the woods. The portability of the new bandsaw mills allows a woodlot owner to cut a tree where it falls and haul out lumber in a small truck instead of hiring skidders and loaders for log removal.

Jan Gisslen spent over five years of "lots of cutting and skidding and hauling effort—and with only minor success in getting anything useful from the painfully extracted timber" before he purchased his portable bandsaw mill. Now Jan mills his own lumber and exclaims, "A bandsaw owner can make cuts to get the nicest surfaces exposed, and for an interested woodworker, this is real satisfaction. I cannot use all the wood myself, so I am planning to start selling some of it to my friends and acquaintances."

Robert Riesenmy of Missouri constructed a 3,750 square foot house out of timber taken from an 80 acre tract and cut on his mill. According to Robert, "We began dropping trees a month before we purchased the **WOOD-MIZER®**. Selective cutting was used and most of the trees cut were considered 'cull logs.' But the **WOOD-MIZER®** made fine lumber out of junk logs. At first we thought there were not enough good trees for the project, but with the **WOOD-MIZER®**, all lumber (103,000 board feet) used in the construction of both the house and a 32' x 56' barn was cut from the property." The home's 30' x 30' living area has a waterfall and a goldfish pond.

Another side benefit of using these new bandsaw mills is the higher yield, up to 30% more lumber from each log. Fewer trees must be felled to obtain the necessary board feet of lumber. Albert Rogers of Ontario, Canada, uses his mill to cut pallet lumber. He comments concerning lumber savings, "Now that I have experienced how the **WOOD-MIZER®** runs, I would buy one for the wood savings alone. In the first six months I went through over a quarter million scaled feet of logs and saved at least 10 trailer loads of logs to get the same quantity of lumber as a circular mill would have produced. This repre-

sents a savings of over \$6,500 in log costs alone!"

Income Generation

If generating income is one of the goals of a woodlot owner, a mill can multiply the amount of revenue generated from each acre. It isn't uncommon for a few boards to sell for the same price as an entire tree. Owning a small mill can keep some of those profits in the woodlot owner's hands. Ray Chattin owns 185 wooded acres in Indiana and has this to say about what the addition of a mill meant to him, "My brother and I spend our winter months logging and sawing for our retail lumber business, and we have not been able to keep up with demand. With the state of the farming economy the last few years, our sawmill has been a big factor for us in making ends meet. I feel we can increase the value of one acre of mature timber by up to five times by taking it from the stump to the final form. Not only that, but it's also a great pastime!" Ray has also built a home from lumber cut on his property.

Operation of the mill doesn't need to be limited to cutting your own woodlot. The majority of mill owners use their mills to make money by sawing for people on a custom basis. Depending on the area, owners charge from \$25 to

\$50 an hour or charge \$100-\$300 per thousand board feet. In 1982 Mark Schrader of Wisconsin bought his first mill upon seeing the **WOOD-MIZER®** demonstrated and had these observations, "I had 'not much' mechanical knowledge but was impressed by the accuracy and safety of the mill." After years of running his own cutting business, Mark comments, "I have sawn furniture stock, log homes, barns, siding, paneling, lath, and crating and am still finding new ways to use the saw. I keep the electric mill at home and use my gas mill at job sites."

It May Be for You

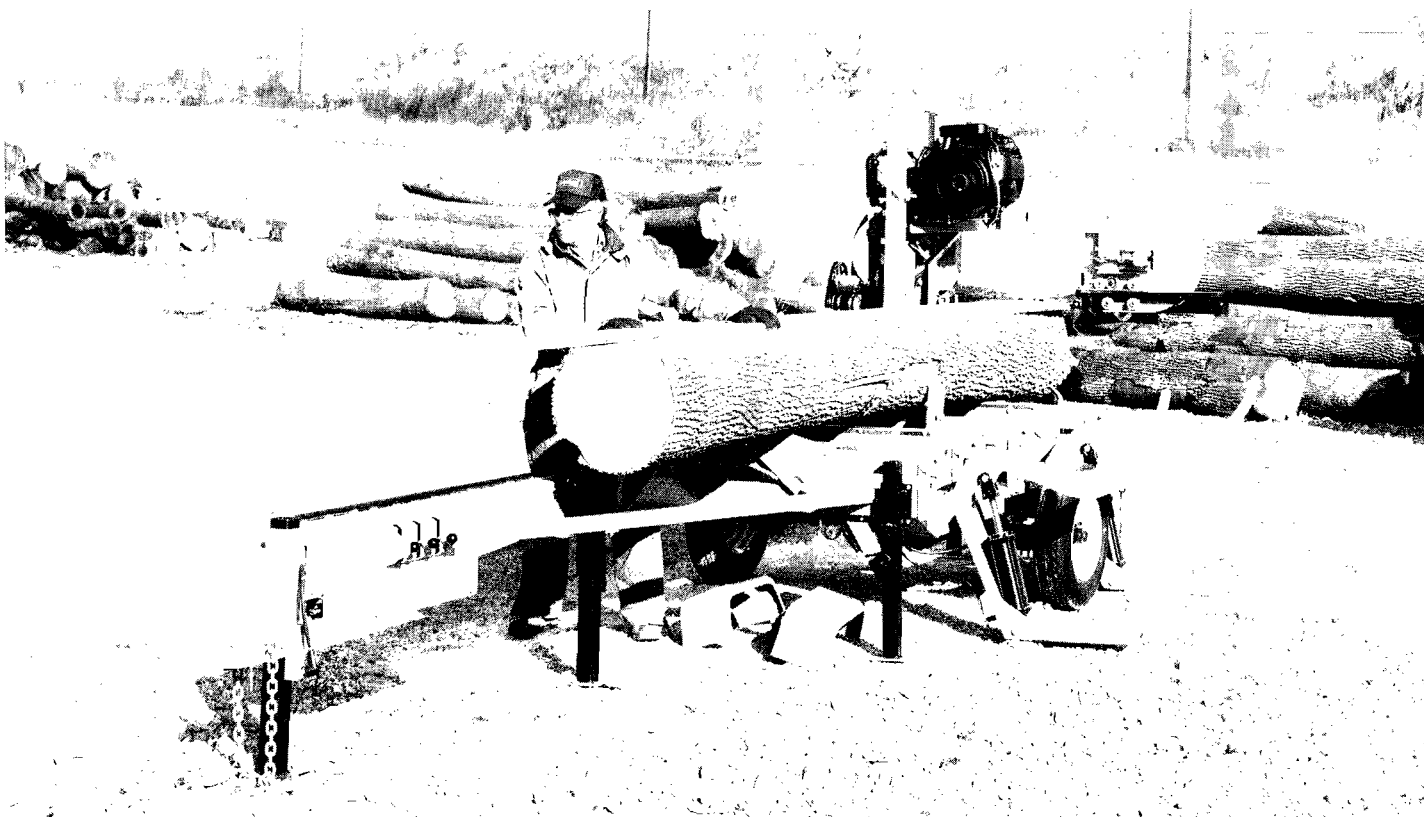
People who own sawmills are as varied as the people who own woodlots. In addition to farmers, you can find a psychiatrist, chimney sweep, or goldsmith behind the controls of a mill.

Many people have the misconception that it takes a Paul Bunyan, 6' 2", 220 lbs. (or larger!) to operate a sawmill. Don't tell that to a 130 lb. Jean Sumner of Virginia. "I like exposing the endless variety of grain patterns in each new board I cut." Jean adds, "I recently became the first female member of the '100,000 Board Feet Club' at **WOOD-MIZER®** and take exception to the notion that sawmilling is strictly man's work. The same attention to detail that

allows me to sew a complicated pattern or follow a special recipe helps me saw accurate lumber and get the most from a log. Besides, why should men have all the fun?" Her husband, Lloyd, comments, "We agonized weeks before finally deciding to invest in a **WOOD-MIZER®**, but now we know it was the best decision we ever made, except maybe the decision to marry each other. We like the quality of the lumber we produce, the goodwill of our satisfied customers, and the quick, helpful service from the company. But the best part is all the trees we save. We can get as much lumber from three trees as an ordinary sawmill can get from four trees."

Buying a portable mill may be just what you need to make the dreams you hold for your woodlot a reality. For additional information or the name of a mill owner in your area, call **WOOD-MIZER®** Products, Inc., at 1-800-553-0182, or write **WOOD-MIZER®** Products, Inc., 8180 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214-2430.

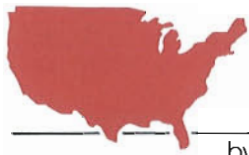
WOOD-MIZER® was demonstrated at the Fifth Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowner Conference. For that reason, this article appears in this magazine. Use of the WOOD-MIZER® name and trademark does not imply endorsement of them.



The Wood-Mizer® sawmill.

LANDO

LEGISLATIVE
ALERT



NATIONAL

by MELINDA COHEN, Legislative Liaison, National Association of State Foresters

The Senate has passed the largest ever farm disaster assistance bill. The bill includes provisions for tree farms and orchards that suffered losses from this year's drought. Up to 40,000 acres of newly planted seedlings in Alabama could be eligible for disaster relief.

Alabama's Senator Howell Heflin and Congressman Claude Harris, as well as Senator Fowler (GA), Senator Cochran (MS) and Congressman Volkmer (MO) were instrumental in including these provisions for trees in hotly contested debates that sought to exclude, figuratively, all "Christmas-tree-like" items. At one point in the Senate Agriculture Committee, the debate was stalled. Senator Pryor (AR) suggested the committee adjourn to the hall, "since that was where most of the work was being done." The bill mark-up looked like a scene out of a movie about Washington. Lobbyists crowded the noisy hallways, running from the Senate Agriculture Committee to the House Agriculture Committee whenever the action changed. Congressmen escaped to back board rooms to cut deals and avoid constituents. The president is expected to sign the bill during the August recess.

Tree Provisions

The legislation will require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide disaster assistance to tree farmers who

planted tree seedlings in 1988 or 1987 for commercial purposes and whose seedlings died as a result of the drought. Tree farmers would be eligible for assistance if seedling mortality exceeds 35 percent of natural mortality.

Assistance will take the form of either 65 percent of the cost to reestablish the stand, or sufficient tree seedlings to reestablish the stand. A farmer could receive no more than \$25,000 under the program.

Other eligibility requirements include the following: (1) tree farmers must own 1,000 acres of land or less of each qualifying tree crop (for example, Christmas trees, commercial pine trees, fruit and nut trees.) The Secretary of Agriculture has the discretion to extend the acreage restriction to 5,000 acres; (2) no farmer can earn more than \$2 million in gross revenues; (3) ornamental trees and nursery stock are excluded from this package.

Other Provisions

Rental rates under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) would be reduced 25 percent for haying, but could be restored if the landowner carries out additional approved conservation practices to enhance soil, water, and wildlife conservation on or in the vicinity of lands subject to the contract.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to provide assistance for the promotion or establishment of

watershed in cooperation with other agencies.

Other News

The House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees are expected to complete their conference of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill. The bill is expected to be sent to the White House for the president's signature in September, although plans may change since the presidential veto of the Defense Appropriations Act. The State and Private Forestry and Forest Service Research funding levels are about the same as last year.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to release new pesticide worker protection standards. They have also begun work again on a program to enforce the Endangered Species Act, which could include regulating pesticide use on private lands.

The National Association of State Foresters and the Forest Farmer hosted a congressional luncheon to discuss private forestry needs. John Kummel from the Alabama Forestry Commission attended. Congressman Sonny Callahan, a co-chair of the group Forestry 2000, and Congressman Claude Harris also attended.

The Forestry 2000 Task Force, an informal congressional group, recently heard a panel discussion on the IRS

WINNERS

temporary rule on participation requirements and allowable losses and credits from active and passive activities as published in the February 25, 1988, Federal Register. Members and staff heard from **William C. Sellery**, Forest Industries Committee

on Timber Valuation and Taxation (FICTVT); **Michael J. Grace**, Internal Revenue Service (IRS); **Dr. Keith Argow**, National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA); **George Myles**, U.S. Forest Service; and **James Rock** of Congressman Ed Jenkins' staff.

Congratulations Alabama! All of your congressmen are members of the Forestry 2,000!



by FRANK SEGO, Legislative Liaison, Alabama Forestry Commission

As this article is being prepared, we are still awaiting the call for a special session of the legislature by **Governor Guy Hunt**. As you read this, a new fiscal year will have begun and all agencies will have received funding approval for 1988-89.

Since we have had no session since our last issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*, I thought I might deal with some interesting figures evolving from legislative sessions.

Recently, the Associated Press came up with some numbers that reflect operating costs for the current year. The regular session, which ended on May 5, cost \$812,397. What may surprise many is that this is about half the amount that Alabama taxpayers have doled out in other years to bring lawmakers to the State House for a normal session of 30 meeting days.

The cost of the special session was expected to range from \$89,000 for a five-day session, the minimum allowed by

state law, to approximately \$333,700 for a 30 day session, the maximum allotted time for such session.

Regardless of the cost, here's the revealing part—the legislature is constituted so that it will never run out of money! This is because an annual appropriation is set aside for operation of the legislature and it is automatically replenished from the general fund as it runs low. This is a fact of law regardless of whether there is a budget overrun. For example, a depletion in the balance as of December 1987 caused half a million dollars in supplemented funds to be allocated to the legislature as it prepared for 1988.

Legislators actually receive \$40 in expenses for each legislative day. That figure is based on two meeting days a week. Their third day in Montgomery is reserved for committee meetings.

The \$40 expense allowance amounted to \$169,200 for the 1988 Regular Session. Members also received \$40 per

day for each of the committee meeting days. Lawmakers were paid \$84,000 for regular session committee meetings in 1988.

As your legislative editor, I have to say that Alabama taxpayers really do get their money's worth when you consider the cost of operating legislatures and assemblies in some of our neighboring states and across the nation in general.

Alabama's legislators are sometimes ridden pretty hard—and sometimes undeservedly so—by critical citizens and the media, but how many of us would take leave from our chosen profession to run for the pay a legislator receives? Many do, and their dedication to the people of Alabama is to be appreciated. It's something to think about.

In the next issue we will summarize the impact of the special session on forestry legislation and its effect on the Forestry Commission budget for Fiscal Year 1988-1989.

WILDLIFE

Managing for Profit

by CLAY WIGGINS, Black Warrior Hunting Service

I own and operate the Black Warrior Hunting Service, 4,000 acres of prime river bottomland—20 miles southwest of Tuscaloosa on the Black Warrior River.

Getting Started

The commercial wildlife service sparked my interest when on a trip to a ranch in south Texas. The fee was \$150 a day, and the hunting wasn't any better than what I had at home. One year later, in 1982, I started my own business!

The advertising was strictly by word of mouth at first, and only hunting was offered (deer), no meals or lodging. The number of people has grown considerably, starting out with 10 the first year, 25 the second, 45 the third, and 75 the fourth. Now beginning the seventh season, I have been averaging 75-100 hunters. In the fourth year lodging was offered, and last year a new cabin was built which sleeps eight and includes a kitchen and bath.

Operating a Business

Hunts of three days or more are offered on deer and turkey, at \$225 and \$150 per day respectively. Lodging, but not meals, is included. To have a commercial hunting operation and be able to charge those rates, a prime hunting area is a must. People won't travel to Alabama to hunt marginal or average hunting areas. If they do, you can bet that they won't be back. Some people who are hunting marginal or average areas try to make up for it by providing big meals and offering fancy lodging, but the memory of a bad hunt will linger long after the smell and taste of all that fancy cooking is gone. My philosophy is that you have to start with a good hunting area; management can turn it into an excellent place to hunt.

The 4,000 acres we hunt on is approximately 55% wooded and 45% open. The land is farmed with corn, soybeans, winter wheat and cotton being the primary crops. For cover crops, sericea, partridge peas, as well

as crimson clover are grown. Clover is also planted for green plots in areas where no wheat, corn or beans are grown. Timber stands are all river bottom hardwood, oaks and hickory, with a few pine scattered about. All the timber is selectively cut. A practice of clearing weak areas in the hardwood stands of two to five acres and planting pines has been implemented. There are also areas of dead timber swamps and sloughs, which make for excellent hunting.

In 1976 the property was put under a deer management program to raise and produce quality or trophy bucks. The principal idea is to shoot does and spikes and let the small rack deer go so they may mature into trophy class bucks. Because of this program, close to 100 trophy class bucks have been produced and harvested over the past 10 years, including 2 Pope and Young deer and a Boone and Crockett deer taken by a neighbor. In 1984 the State of Alabama started the Deer Management Program (DMP). Part of this program is to improve body weights and trophy quality. I put the property



This out-of-state hunter is a satisfied customer.

under the DMP in 1985 and am now working with a state game biologist.

The Black Warrior Hunting Service acquires business by advertising in popular hunting and fishing magazines. Hunts are also sold by attending deer shows and setting up a booth. Seventy-five percent of the business is repeat or referral from old clients.

The hunting service takes eight bow hunters or six gun hunters at a time (up to six turkey hunters at a time). My brother and I serve as guides, taking the hunters to and from the stands and taking care of their kills. We also make sure all guns are sighted in before anyone goes out.

A large walk-in cooler is provided to hang the kills. Although processing meat is not usually done, the equipment is available if the client wishes to do so. There are over 100 permanent hunting stands, portable aluminum shooting ladders and shooting huts. All deer hunting is done from stand or blind. Again, hunts include lodging, but not meals.

On deer hunts, a day starts before daylight and runs until 10:30 or 11:00 a.m., and then continues about 2:00 p.m. Deer hunters are allowed three deer on a hunt; one doe, one spike and one mature trophy class buck—eight points or better.

For turkeys, we hunt until 10:00 a.m. and then go out again at 3:00 p.m. Turkey hunters are allowed one gobbler for every two days hunted.

We take a deer off of every 25-30 acres (150-160 deer a year). About 20 gobblers are killed each year.

If you have a good hunting area, you could commercially hunt a tract as small as 1,000 acres, but 2,000 or more is ideal. Good hunting land along with good management can gross up to \$25 per acre, with \$20 per acre being common.

Conclusion

Practicing good sound wildlife management and timber management benefits wildlife. The timberland should be no less than 35 percent wooded and no more than 70 percent wooded. A 50-50 ratio is ideal. The open land should be productive farm land with some grain crops being produced. In a nutshell, the most wildlife and best hunting is on productive farm land with a good balance of timber stands (hardwood timber stands or hardwood and pine mixture). If your place meets these criteria, you could be generating additional income from your wildlife and timber resource! *

Hardwood Timber Harvesting

by TOM V. CAMBRE, Hardwood Specialist

Many times throughout Alabama, landowners have their timber harvested and give little thought to what problems or situations they will be faced with after this operation takes place. The landowner needs to seek prior professional forestry advice to ensure that the harvest operation is done correctly and professionally.

Contract

Before a harvesting operation begins, the landowner should have a written contract for timber sales. In the contract, there should be a detailed description of the sale area, a clear designation of the logging method used, and designation of trees to be cut. A clause should say that any damage incurred on the property to fences, roads, bridges or other improvements is to be repaired at the buyer's expense.

The method of payment should also be listed in the contract statement. This statement should include how and when payment should be made. The contract should cover the length of time—beginning and ending—and stipulations pertaining to contract extension which might be needed due to weather conditions or other uncontrollable circumstances.

Harvesting

In hardwood harvesting, if the harvesting is a select cut, great care should be taken in the removal of the trees so as not to damage the trees left for the future stand. If the butt log of the leave tree is damaged, approximately 70% of the value of that tree is lost. This is due to rot, stain, or insects developing in the bole of the tree. Hardwoods, when damaged, do not self-seal as pines do because they do not produce resin. The wound is left open, providing an easy accessible entrance for insects and disease, thus causing serious rot and destroying wood quality. This damage to the tree removes it from the category of high grade product, such as

vener, to pallet lumber or pulp. The primary value of hardwoods is the butt log. Therefore, harvesting should be done carefully and cautiously.

Harvesting should be planned to accomplish management objectives and regeneration plans. Harvesting in and of itself is not management, but the management system depends on harvesting practices that efficiently remove the tree crop while protecting both the forest productivity and the ecological functions of the site. In order to accomplish this, the following guidelines should be noted.

Harvest operations should be scheduled during certain periods in correlation with the appropriate system to minimize site damage, soil compaction and impacts on water quality. Many times, depending upon the soil and the type of equipment used, more damage is done during wet periods. This has been noted through research, especially in the wetland areas of the state.

Roads constructed in hardwood areas should be carefully planned before construction begins. These roads should not contain extensive amounts of fill dirt that would, in essence, act as levees or restrict the natural drainage throughout the area. Also, the road should use a minimum design standard consistent with the anticipated traffic and safety needed. If the road considered is a limited use road constructed to a specific block of timber to gain access for harvesting, once the operation is completed, all temporary structures should be removed. The road needs to be abandoned and allowed to revert back to natural vegetation.

If a main access road is to be constructed, the road should be bridged or culverted with permanent structures of a size and frequency to allow normal flow of water. The design of these roads is to provide all weather access for silvicultural operations to be executed throughout the life of the forest. Where possible, avoid crossing streams, sloughs and other water

courses. Each time a crossing is made, make sure that the crossing is at right angles to the stream channel. Except at crossings, locate roads as far as practical from streams.

Zones on each side of streams should receive special attention and specific attention should be given to measures that can be taken to protect both instream and downstream water quality values. In the streamside management zone, trees should be left to provide a runway for wildlife stabilization on the stream banks, as well as to provide aesthetic beauty along the course of the creek or river. This does not mean that timber cannot be harvested in this area, but rather, that logging equipment should be excluded from it and any harvesting done should be done by skidding from outside this zone. Extreme care should be taken in preserving this portion of the tract. Under proper management, the objectives of both timber production and water quality can be achieved. The most important consideration within this zone is that of protecting the integrity of the stream bed and stream bank. Log decks should at all times be located on high ground if at all possible. If it is necessary to locate a log deck in a wetland area, locate it on the highest ground, or on islands within the area and keep it to a minimum size.

Before a landowner harvests his timber, certain criteria should be known about the stand. The age of the stand, the growth rate, and the composition of the stand all dictate the type of harvest that should be performed. Local markets also play an important part in the timber harvest. The size of the area and volume present, along with the species composition and quality, determine to a high degree the monetary value that will be received from this cut.

In summary, it should be noted that true hardwood sites, especially bottomlands, are very sensitive areas. The sites should be treated in such a manner as not to destroy or damage wildlife, water quality, or the aesthetic value that they, as timbered areas offer, along with the high quality wood products that are provided for our use.

ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT

1

Bud St. Clair, Jackson County TREASURE Forest landowner, was honored recently at a gathering of natural resource managers. St. Clair was presented a certificate and a \$500 check for being selected as the regional winner of the 1988 Helene Mosley Award. His primary objective is wildlife management and some of the more unique accomplishments include (1) establishing 45 acres of wetland habitat which is sown with sorghum or millet and then flooded during the winter to encourage water fowl; (2) fertilizing honeysuckle for improved native wildlife forage; and (3) planting four acres of sawtooth oaks. District Forester **Sam Gravel** made the presentation and spoke of the various benefits of St. Clair's excellent management.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Non-Game Wildlife Biologist **Doreen Miller** has provided valuable assistance in our effort to promote the management of wildlife resources not typically managed. Recently, she worked with a landowner in **Marshall County** on developing songbird habitat. Also, she spoke to the **Mountain Lakes Chapter of the Society of American Foresters** in Scottsboro. The bald eagle project, osprey release program, and bluebird cooper program are just three of the activities being conducted in northeast Alabama.

The Alabama Forestry Commission's Hardwood Specialist **Tom Cambre** has been spending many hours in the mountains of northeast Alabama. He has been working with landowners and AFC personnel in **Jackson** and **Marshall County** regarding artificial and natural hardwood regeneration.

Madison County recently held the **First Annual 4-H Field Day** at Sharon Johnson Park. Approximately 120 students received diverse training and experience in fishing, shotgun handling, tree identification and tree uses, fishing and four-wheeler operation. Sponsored by the **Cooperative Extension Service**, assistance was provided by several agencies and the **Madison County Commission**.

DISTRICT

2

District Forester **Bart Williams** announced that since October 1, 1987, District 2 has experienced the most devastating wildfire season on record. To date, he advised that District 2 has had 2,030 wildfires burning 94,863 acres. The months of October, November, March and June have been the most troublesome months with November being the most devastating when 456 fires burned over 79,603 acres of land. He said the effects of the four year drought in the Birmingham area certainly became evident in June when a record 240 wildfires occurred and the most fires caused by lightning on record were observed. Williams advised that even though the wildfire load has been tremendously draining on the Forestry Commission resources, industry cooperators and volunteer firemen, the District 2 fire suppression team is still hanging tough and striving hard to hold the average fire size down.

District Forester **Bart Williams** congratulates Walker County Forester **Charles E. Hall, Jr.** and Blount County Forester **John Rice** on their recent promotions. Hall served in the district forester trainee position in Montgomery and is now the district forester in Dadeville. Rice is transitioning from the Blount County

forester position to the nursery superintendent position at Miller Nursery in Autaugaville. Williams wishes to thank both men for their dedication and spirit of teamwork while serving in District 2.

Best wishes for success go from District 2 associates to Forest Rangers **Brian Osborn** and **Charles Carpenter** who transferred from Jefferson County this summer to District 4 and 8 respectively. We appreciate your dedication and willingness to put in the long hours necessary during the drought conditions plaguing Jefferson County during your employment.

District Forester **Bart Williams** congratulates the **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee** for being one of the three state finalists for the Outstanding Forestry Planning Committee Award. District Forester **Bart Williams**, Urban Forester **Lee Laechelt**, and Forest Management Specialist **Tom Kimbrell** all attended the **CaWaCo RC&D** meeting held at the **Alabama Resource Center** operated by Alabama Power Company. Tom Kimbrell spoke to the group on the advantages of timber bridges on area road systems versus costly steel bridges. Kimbrell encouraged the **CaWaCo RC&D Group** to sponsor a timber bridge seminar in the near future. There was also a great deal of interest in the upcoming **PALS Meeting**.

Brian Osborn, Jefferson County Forest Ranger I, attended the wildlife management course of ranger training the week of April 4-8.

Jefferson County Forester **Phearthur Moore** attended the **CaWaCo RC&D** meeting in Hoover on April 13. He also attended the Tree Commission Conference in Selma on May 3, and a seminar on forestry herbicides in Auburn on June 1-2. He received his commercial applicator's certification following a test that was given on June 3.

A total of \$18,097 in RCFP grant checks was awarded to 26 fire departments in Jefferson County on July 11, 1988.

William Vance Hamner began his career with the Forestry Commission as a Forest Ranger I in Jefferson County on August 1, 1988.

Grant checks were distributed to Blount County area fire departments on July 7. State Representative **Bob Harvey** and County Forester **John Rice** participated in the grant check ceremony. A total of 18 fire departments received checks totaling \$11,763.

John Rice and **Dennis Underwood** of Blount County recently completed the law enforcement and fire prevention chapter of advanced forestry training.

The **Blount County Forestry Planning Committee** installed a TREASURE Forest billboard in the county.

Blount County Forest Ranger **Steve Bowden** completed the emergency vehicle safety driving course.

John Rice announced that **William Owen** recently reported to duty as a forestry worker in Blount County.

John Rice, **Steve Bowden** and **William Owen** conducted a dendrology course for 4-H campers at Camp Sumatanga.

Cullman Supervisor **Darrell Johns** conducted a nature walk for 20 students at **St. Paul's School** in June.

Jimmy Moody conducted a tree dendrology course for 4-H campers during June at **Camp Meadowbrook**.

District Forester **Bart Williams**, Forest Management Specialist **Tom Kimbrell** and Cullman Supervisor **Darrell Johns** attended a **Tennessee Valley RC&D** quarterly meeting held at **Shaw's Restau-**

rant in Holly Pond in June.

Ranger **Kenneth Hulsey** attended the fire prevention and law enforcement sessions of advanced forestry training.

District Fire Specialist **Larry Wright** and Cullman Supervisor **Darrell Johns** participated in an RCFP grant check ceremony in July. Grant checks were issued to 25 Cullman County RCFP departments. State Senator **Don Hale** participated in the grant check ceremony and a total of \$16,660 was distributed.

District Forester **Bart Williams** and **Johnnie Tidwell** participated in an RCFP grant check ceremony in Shelby County in July. State Senator **Butch Ellis** and State Representative **Mike Hill** participated in the ceremony. Shelby County Commission Chairman **Tommy Snowden** also participated in the ceremony. A total of 19 checks were presented totaling over \$13,000.

St. Clair County Supervisor **Gary Hamilton** attended the annual meeting of Soil Conservation Supervisors August 2 at the Cherokee County Country Club.

A group of litter-conscious St. Clair County citizens has organized a **St. Clair Charter Chapter of PALS**. State Forester **C.W. Moody** and District Forester **Bart Williams** participated in a conference organizing the Charter Chapter. **Bob Neel** spoke to the Charter PALS Group and made a presentation to them from Gov. Guy Hunt's office.

DISTRICT

3

Our congratulations goes out to **Randall Aldridge**, Forest Ranger II, Fayette County; and **Harry Kepler**, Forest Ranger I, Tuscaloosa County; for receiving their diplomas from the 1986-87 Forestry Academy. The diplomas were presented at the Annual Meeting in Huntsville. Kepler, who was recently promoted to Ranger I had the highest academic average in his class. **Scott Hallman**, Ranger I, Hale County and **Dan Lassetter**, Forester I, Lamar County, recently completed the 1987-88 Forestry Academy. **Lassetter** and Hale County Forester **Jim Junkin** will enter the July session of the Law Enforcement Academy at UAT.

District Fire Specialist **Ken Elmore** and **Niles Graham**, investigator for **Gulf States Paper Corporation** organized a two-day wildfire investigation course on July 26-27 at the Gulf States Corporate Headquarters that was attended by all the District 3 law enforcement officers and selected industry representatives. **Ken Elmore** and Hale County Forester **Jim Junkin** have helped the five Hale County RCFP departments organize a county fire association. **Carroll's Creek Volunteer Fire Department** was the host in May for the **Tuscaloosa-Pickens County Fire Department** competitions.

The state forester's office held their District 3 review the week of April 18th. **Mr. Moody**, **Mr. Pigg**, **Cynthia Page**, **Anita Benton** and **Neil Letson** spent the week reviewing their programs and what they could provide for the district. It was a very constructive week for all concerned and we hope they enjoyed the visit and come back soon.

District 3 appreciates Division Director **Richard Cumbie** for being the guest speaker at the annual **Aliceville Forestry Field Day** in Pickens County. The event was held in late April with over 125 participants. District Forester **Wayne Strawbridge** presented the TREASURE Forest award to **Craig and Foster Sizemore** of Lamar County when they hosted a landowner field day on their TREASURE Forest in late May. The 40 plus landowners listened to speakers **John Bradley, Jr.** of Resource Management Services, District Forest Management Specialist **Patrick Waldrop**, and **Dale Lancaster** of Mid-South Forestry Ser-

vices and enjoyed an excellent barbecue meal.

State Forester **C.W. Moody** presented four TREASURE Forest awards June 13 at the **Tombigbee RC&D's Tombigbee TREASURE Forest Tugboat Tour** held at **Scott Paper Company's** woodyard in Boligee. AFC Commissioner **John Goodson**, who is also the Tombigbee RC&D Forestry Chairman, gave the welcoming remarks to the 48 TREASURE Forest landowners, industry, and agency people in attendance. **Dewey Senn** of Scott Paper gave a tour of the woodyard, and Scott Paper provided dinner and the use of their new tugboat for touring the hardwood sites along the Tombigbee. **Tom Cambre**, AFC hardwood specialist, and **Dan Sims**, USFS hardwood specialist, gave excellent talks at the three land stops and two river stops. Over half the people in attendance were TREASURE Forest landowners representing **Bibb**, **Sumter**, **Pickens**, **Hale**, and **Greene** counties. Forest Management Specialist **Patrick Waldrop** was a speaker at the June 1-2 herbicide training session at Auburn University.

Sumter County Forester **Philip DuBois** recently worked with the **Sumter County 4-H** students on tree identification while Hale County Forester **Jim Junkin** worked with the **Hale County 4-H** students. The **FFA** students in **Lamar**, **Pickens**, and **Fayette** were recently helped with their Forestry Judging Contests by their respective AFC rangers and foresters, **Harold Jordan**, **John Sutton**, and **George Lowrey**. Forester **Dan Lassetter**, Tuscaloosa Assistant County Supervisor **Kenneth Colburn**, and **Smokey Bear** visited with 376 of **Tuscaloosa County's** outstanding students from grades K-9, at the University of Alabama. Needless to say, **Smokey** had a busy night. **Smokey** was also the honored guest at a graduation and commencement exercises for a Tuscaloosa County kindergarten. He also managed to swing by **Fayette County** to help **Fayette County Supervisor George Lowrey** convert a few of the local elementary school children there.

Gary Hamilton attended a meeting of **Coosa Valley RC&D Council** in Clay County July 21.

On April 23, Walker County Forester **Charles Hall** and Rangers **Kenneth Harvill** and **Tunney Markham** administered a forestry judging contest for **FFA** high school teams in Walker County.

Walker County Acting Supervisor **Tunney Markham**, **David Hall** of **Hiwassee** and **Allyson Peeler** with **Champion**, worked with **Walker High School FFA** on forest management May 4, 1988.

On May 12, the **Walker County Forestry Planning Committee** held a field day at **Wolf Creek Management Area** for 250 seventh graders from **Jasper Middle School**. Acting Supervisor **Tunney Markham**, Forest Ranger **Bobby Matthews** and **David Bell** of **Hiwassee** spoke on forestry along with a field trip through the management area.

The **Walker County Firemen's Association** met July 12. Grant checks were given out to 10 departments by State Representatives **Ed Frazier** and **Tom Hogan**. **Pineywoods Fire Department** was also awarded certification from State Representative **Tom Hogan** and **Tunney Markham**.

Winston County Supervisor David Frost and District Forester **Bart Williams** participated in an RCFP grant check ceremony in July. State Senator **Roger Bedford** and State Representative **Steve Logan** also participated in the ceremony. Seven grant checks were issued in the amount of \$5,223.

David Frost advised that **Winston County** has recorded six lightning fires in June which breaks all records for wildfires caused by lightning.

DISTRICT
4

The Chambers County Forestry Planning Committee nominated TREASURE Forest landowner **Jack Langley** for the **Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award**. County Forester **Clayton Schwind** received a Mosley Award for his outstanding work in establishing the 4-H Demonstration Hardwood Forest in LaFayette.

Ronnie Ray received an award for his outstanding work with TREE Farms. Forester **Earl Smith** and Forest Ranger **W.N. McCollum** attended a special supper for **Clay County Firefighters** at the National Guard Armory in Ashland. Approximately 250 Volunteer Firemen and their spouses attended. Also present were State Senator **Gerald Dial**, State Representative **Richard Laird** and numerous county and city officials.

On April 11, **Earl Smith** participated in the FFA Forestry Judging Contest on the property of **R.B. Griffin**, one of Clay County's TREASURE Forest landowners. **Lineville FFA Chapter** won the Clay County competition and will participate in the district contest in Auburn.

On May 7 **Clay County** held their **Annual Firefighters Appreciation Day** at the Clay County Farmer's Market. The day included a parade, firefighter's competition, Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, and games for the children. Special guests included U.S. Congressman **Bill Nichols**, State Senator **Gerald Dial**, State Representative **Richard Laird**, RCFP Coordinator **Ray Tucker**, and other local officials.

The **Cleburne County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments** held their quarterly meeting on April 21. The VFD representatives met with the **Fruithurst VFD**. Member departments are **Piney Woods, Hollis Cross Roads, Heflin, Ranburne, Abernathy, and Edwardsville**.

The annual **Cleburne County Forestry Judging Competition** for several FFA Chapters was held on April 14.

Coosa County Supervisor Ralph T. Woolley presented certification papers to the **Richville and Marble Valley Volunteer Fire Departments**; approximately 25 people attended the Richville meetings and 20 attended the Marble Valley meeting.

Woolley presented TREASURE Forest certificates to three landowners in **Coosa County—W.R. Prater, Ralph Kelley, and Doug Watkins**.

Stewartville VFD held an annual **Work Day** to clean up and put all firefighting equipment in perfect order. The **Coosa County Forestry Judging Contest** was held at the 4-H Club Wildlife Refuge which is a Junior TREASURE Forest. The contest was held April 21 and **Blake Kelley**, Management Specialist District 4, Forest Ranger **Joel Neighbors** (Coosa), and County Supervisor **Ralph Woolley** participated in this event. **Rockford FFA Chapter** won first place.

Bill Nixon, Randolph County forester, and **Blake Kelley**, management specialist, conducted the FFA Forestry Judging Contest for the **Randolph County FFA Chapters**. The first place winner was the team from the **Randolph-Roanoke Area Vocational School**. All county FFA chapters participated.

The **Talladega County Farm Bureau** hosted a dinner meeting at the **Extension Service** office on the night of April 28 for Talladega County forest landowners. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize landowners with the TREASURE Forest Program. The meeting was planned by the **County Forestry Planning Committee** which includes representation from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Alabama

Cooperative Extension Service and ALFA. Thirty-one landowners attended the meeting and were shown a video on the TREASURE Forest Program and the objectives as discussed by some of the TF landowners. **C.B. Munroe**, Talladega County's latest TF recipient was presented his TF certificate during this meeting. The County Forestry Planning Committee is working on the details of an on-the-ground tour of the Munroe property for interested landowners.

The latest TREASURE Forest certificate in **Tallapoosa County** was presented on April 29 by **C.W. Moody** to the management of **Stillwaters Resort**. **Moody** flew in by helicopter accompanied by **Bob Neel**, Administrative Assistant to the Governor. The presentation was made at the new conference center to **Graham Hudson, Jr.** of Birmingham, President of Coosa Resorts, Inc. and **Cleatus Ledford**, general manager. **Bud Watts** and **Kathleen Williams** were among the Coosa Resorts people present. **Hoyt Cannon**, Tallapoosa County Commissioner; **Ray Tucker**, RCFP Coordinator, AFC; **Guy Slayden**, Tallapoosa County Forester; **Connie Vaughn, SCS**; and the **Honorable John Rice**, senator from the 27th District (Lee and Tallapoosa) also attended the ceremony.

Brian Osborn, Forest Ranger I, has transferred from Jefferson County to Clay County. **Blake Kelley**, district TREASURE Forest coordinator, reports 10 new TF certifications this quarter; Chambers County, **Walter and John Lowe**; Clay County, **W.N. McCollum, Gerald T. Price, and L.L. McCollum**; Cleburne County, **Woodrow Larry and Lloyd Owens**; Coosa County, **Larry Hilyer**; Talladega County, **C.B. Munroe**; Tallapoosa County, **John W. Merrell** and **Stillwaters Resort**.

Charles Sikes, forest ranger, Randolph County and **Mary Tucker** assisted with the annual 4-H Club Camp in Randolph County in June. It is always held at the **Alabama Natural Gas Corporation** employees' camp and lake. The Cooperative Extension Service (**Chris Bailey and Rusty Parrish**), associate county agents and **Tom Burnside**, county agent, have been doing an outstanding job for many years. It is always a great pleasure to participate in this activity.

Earl Smith, Clay County forester, attended the Clay County drought emergency meeting and joined with the Clay County EMA, ASCS, and Extension Service to develop a plan to haul water to agricultural industry if necessary. **Smith** also attended the RC&D area meeting in Clay County. He presented TREASURE Forest certificates to **W.N. McCollum, R.B. Griffing** and **Twin M Farms** at the SCS District Meeting in Ashland. **Smith** and **W.N. McCollum**, Forest Ranger III, and **Wayne Johnson** attended the District 4 Firefighters' Association meeting at the Lineville fire station to plan for the **Volunteer Firefighters' Appreciation Day** at Stillwaters on September 10.

Ronnie Ray, forest ranger, and **Clayton Schwind**, Chambers County forester, attended five VFD meetings in their county; they also participated in one wildlife program. **Schwind** presented a program to the **LaFayette Rotary Club** in July; 20 members were present and enjoyed the program on Alabama's wildlife resource.

Ben Parrish, forest ranger, Tallapoosa County, conducted a forestry and firefighting program for the **Cub Scout Day Camp** in Alexander City; **Al Tapley**, long time leader, made **Ben and Mary Tucker** full-fledged honorary members of the **Tallapoosa Cub Scouts**.

C.W. Moody and **Ray Tucker** attended a meeting in Talladega and presented State Senator **Jim Preuit** with a plaque of appreciation for his fine cooperation in assisting with forestry legislation.

The **Honorable Richard Laird** of Randolph County received a plaque in Roanoke for the excellent work he has done in helping his county volunteer fire departments and in his work as a state representative in working for legislation to assist forestry programs which include forest management and fire suppression. **C.W. Moody** presented the plaque.

DISTRICT
5

The **Selma Tree Commission** hosted **Alabama's Fourth Annual Tree Commission Conference** on May 3 at the Performing Arts Center. An outstanding program and tour was set up by the Selma Tree Commission with help from **Neil Letson, Dr. Frank Roth, Edie Jones** of the Selma Chamber of Commerce and many others. The 126 people attending heard speakers covering a broad spectrum of urban forestry concerns.

The **Perry County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored a tour on May 11. The theme was "Relating Forestry Practices to Wildlife." Approximately 30 people heard **Dr. Lee Stribling** of Auburn University talk about wildlife management and hunting leases.

Cleveland Burdette of the Enterprise Community in Chilton County was presented with the TREASURE Forest Award on June 10. **Burdette** and his family have done an excellent job of managing their property for multiple use.

Twenty-three children from the **First United Methodist Church of Clanton** visited **Peach Tower** in Chilton County on June 21. The group called "God's World" had been studying conservation of natural resources. **Tim Albritton** and **Mike Cleckler** talked with them concerning the wildfire problem in Chilton County. The group was shown the destruction of a nearby forest stand by wildfire.

Ranger Freddie Kornegay and **Smokey Bear** presented a fire prevention program to 40 **West Blocton Head Start** students in May.

Dallas County Supervisor Alan Williams and **Ranger Danny Jordan** gave a forestry program to approximately 100 K-4th grade children at **Byrd School in Selma**. The children were involved in **Project Learning Tree** and were shown fire fighting equipment used on forest fires. Assisting in the presentation were District 5 Foresters **Ken Leslie** and **Tom Lang**.

Southern pine beetle activity has increased dramatically during the summer of 1988 in District 5. Landowners are urged to check their pine stands often and take quick action on SPB spots.

DISTRICT
6

Barbour County Supervisor Don VanHouten and **Smokey Bear** recently visited the first and third graders at vacation bible school in **Mt. Andrew**.

An interesting and informative program on Treasure Forest was presented. Approximately 60 children participated.

The **Coffee County Forestry Advisory Committee** recently held its **Ned Folmar Appreciation Day** in New Brockton for its forest landowners. Approximately 220 people attended the function. This event is held annually in honor of **Ned Folmar**, TREASURE Forest landowner, who passed away recently.

Fleetwood Carley recently joined the family of TREASURE Forest landowners in **Coffee County**. He becomes Coffee County's 11th TREASURE Forest landowner.

The **Dale County Landowner Association** held its quarterly meeting on July 21, 1988. A very interesting program on wildflowers was presented by **Francis Snell** and **Nellie Hughes**. These two ladies are responsible for the **Hill and Dale**

Nature Trail in Dale County. There are some 500 plus wildflowers identified on this trail which is open to the public.

The **Geneva County Landowner Association** held a BBQ chicken dinner where District Forester **Franklin McAliley** awarded **Dr. Hoyt Childs** the **District Helene Mosley Award**. **Dr. Childs** was presented a \$500 check and a plaque. His wife **Quida**, daughter **Patricia**, and her husband were present to see **Dr. Childs** accept the award. Seventy-five landowners were also in attendance to see the presentation.

The **Henry County Forest Landowner Association** held its quarterly meeting on August 17, 1988. A panel of professionals presented a program on wildlife management. District Forest Management Specialist **Barry Lawrence** presented a program on wildlife management and how it relates to the TREASURE Forest concept.

The **Houston County Landowner Association** has been very active the last few months. The group recently went on a tour of **Great Southern Paper Company's** papermill and plywood plant. All who went on the tour agreed it was very informative. Twenty-seven landowners attended the tour.

Houston County recently added two more TREASURE Forest landowners to their growing family—**Glen Forester** and **family** and **Landmark Park**.

State Forester **C.W. Moody** presented **William Hollman**, executive director, **Landmark Park**, with the TREASURE Forest certificate and sign at a ceremony on August 9, 1988. Immediately following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Interpretative Center at **Landmark Park**. **Landmark Park** is unique in that its purpose is to set aside an area for preservation of a natural environment for aesthetic enjoyment.

District Forester **Franklin McAliley** presented **Glenn, Ted and Charles Forester** with their TREASURE Forest certificate at the August 16, 1988 meeting of the **Houston County Landowner Association**.

James Hughes, TREASURE Forest landowner in Houston County, was recently nominated for the **State Tree Farmer of the Year Award**. Congratulations, **James!**

On June 9, 1988, the **Pike County Forestry Advisory Committee** held a TREASURE Forest field day on the **Alex and Jane Whaley** farm. Informative stops on the tour included herbicide use, prescribed burning, hardwood management, firelanes and erosion control and wildlife management. Afterwards, BBQ chicken and all the trimmings were served to about 80 landowners. State Forester **C.W. Moody** made six TREASURE Forest presentations after the lunch.

Pike County Supervisor Wayne Craft has had six articles on TREASURE Forest in local newspapers. These articles must be working, for Pike County leads the district with 17 TREASURE Forest landowners!

DISTRICT
7

On June 23 **Escambia County Rangers Richard Royce** and **George Bolling** presented a **Smokey Bear** program at the **Brewton YMCA** for 50 students. The program was on methods used to control wildfire.

Congratulations to **Escambia County Forestry Worker Junior Stokes** and **Alesia Stokes** on the birth of their son, **Jeffrey Levi** on April 6, 1988.

Covington County Supervisor Victor Howell and his wife, **Peggy Howell**, became proud parents of a baby boy, **Eric**, born on May 3, 1988.

Covington County Supervisor Tammy Ellis and **Smokey Bear** attended a crafts festival in **Opp** on August 16, 1988. The

children were given books and balloons. They also presented a radio program concerning fire prevention.

AFC employees in **Covington County** have been busy with tree survival checks under the CRP program the past few months.

On May 17, **Monroe County** hosted a statewide **Soil and Water Conservation District** tour. It was sponsored by Monroe forestry personnel and the Monroe County Forestry Committee. When on tour of the Bedsole property, **Gary Cole** presented **Senator Bedsole** with a certificate for the **National and State Champion Water Oak**.

Monroe County personnel have moved into their new office. The office is about 99 percent completed. An opening ceremony is planned for the near future.

DISTRICT

8

District 8 welcomes its new District Forester, **Stanley Anderson**. Anderson has been with the Alabama Forestry Commission since 1976.

He was county supervisor in Cherokee County for 11 years, and spent 12 months in Montgomery prior to being assigned to Bay Minette.

Baldwin County personnel with the assistance of Management Specialist **Larry Grable**, Choctaw County Forester **Regg Kelson**, Fire Specialist **Charles Rawls** and Pilots **Walt Dixon**, **Langston Rowe** and **Jim Lackey**, checked plantings on 130 cost-share reforestation, 90 percent of which were under the CRP program. During this three month time frame, **Baldwin County** rangers and laborers also battled 135 wildfires due to the drought situation, which extended the fire season into July.

Lynn Sullivan, Washington County forester, and **Gordon Durham**, RC&D Forester, attended a forestry tour on June 14. Approximately 50 people were present to evaluate the use of herbicide, specifically **VELPAR**, for site preparation. **Champion International** hosted the tour, with cooperation from International Paper Company. A lunch was served in a combined effort by Champion International, International Paper and Du Pont Company.

The **Baldwin County Forestry Planning Committee**, of which **John Martin**, Baldwin County forester, is chairman, nominated **Ozier** and **Dozier Slay**'s TREASURE Forest for the Helene Mosley Award. This award recognizes the most outstanding TREASURE Forests, especially with respect to their educational value and use. The state is divided into three Alabama Cooperative Extension Districts. Each of these districts chooses one winner, and each of these winners is then eligible to win the State Helene Mosley Award. An inspection tour was held on the Slay property June 10, and the Slay Brothers were announced winner for this region and the state!

On June 18, **Turnerville Volunteer Fire Department** was certified during a meeting that was attended by Mobile County Rangers **Jim Wade** and **Bobby McAdams** and approximately 30 Turnerville firemen and friends.

The **Baldwin County Forestry Planning Committee** submitted an application for nomination as the State Outstanding County Forestry Planning Committee.

DISTRICT

9

During April, **Lawrence County** rangers assisted with the county's **FFA** forestry judging contests. Approximately five area schools participated in the competition.

Burnout-Haltown Volunteer Fire Department in **Franklin County** was recently certified by the AFC for meeting

requirements prescribed by the Insurance Service Operations (I.S.O.).

Lauderdale County Supervisor Steve McEachron and Information and Education Chief **Cynthia Page** participated in a litter recycling exposition at Regency Square Mall in Florence. A display on recycling was the main attraction of the AFC booth, along with samples of recycled products and brochures. The exhibit received attention by local television stations.

Congratulations goes out to Marion County Supervisor **Tony Avery** for being one of this year's **W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Award** winners. Tony's exceptional work in efforts to promote the bluebird population in Marion County, as well as his outstanding efforts in creating and maintaining a beautiful wildflower trail played a role in his receiving the award.

Lauderdale County Supervisor Steve McEachron and **Smokey Bear**, have been busy with school programs. Included was a presentation entitled "Why a Forest Is More Than Trees" to around 55 Brownie Scouts at **St. Joseph School**. The pair also visited **Central Elementary School**, where around 100 children in grades K-1 participated in a fire prevention and litter cleanup program, and **Woody Owl** and **Smokey Bear** movies were shown.

Danny Deaton, Colbert County supervisor, spent a week this spring at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in Andalusia, where he served as an instructor for Instructor Training Course (ITC) hosted by the AFC.

Lauderdale County Supervisor Steve McEachron, and Staff Foresters **Don Burdette** and **Tammy Ellis** joined forces to present a program on tree biology to students at **Brandon School**. The presentation was made to approximately 200 children in grades K-6.

The **Colbert County Advisory Committee**, Staff Forester **Tammy Ellis** and Fire Specialist **Mike Lanier** presented **Rick Hall**, owner of **Fame Recording Studio** in Muscle Shoals, with a TREASURE Forest award. Artists that record at Fame have enjoyed the beautiful natural resources there for many years.

Steve McEachron, **Lauderdale County** supervisor, helped coordinate a 21-hour "Urban Forestry Tree Care Short Course," which was held in the city of Florence. Approximately 25 people including city employees from the electricity, street, parks and recreation and planning departments, private tree services, members of the Florence Tree Commission, AFC representatives, and the city Beautification Board attended the meeting.

District fire specialist **Mike Lanier** and Information Specialist **Coleen Vansant** coordinated a press conference with **Colbert County Supervisor Danny Deaton** which targeted the 4th of July weekend. Participating in the press conference were **Charles Cocheran** of the Florence Fire Department, and **Gary Alverson**, **Colbert County District Attorney**. Topics discussed were fireworks laws, forest and roadside fires, and drought conditions.

Senator **Jim Smith** was on hand recently at a **Lauderdale County Volunteer Firemen's Association** meeting to present a check in the amount of \$5,000. The money, received from the governor's discretionary fund, will be used to program pagers at the county's 14 volunteer fire departments as well as help put the departments on a group call system.

Limestone County Supervisor Howard Swanner has been working closely with local media representatives in obtaining coverage of the drought and forest fire situation in his area. His efforts have included an interview with a local television station, along with several newspaper articles.

Approximately 80 children from **Morgan, Lawrence and Limestone Counties** attended a forestry and wildlife camp coordinated by the AFC.

Colbert County supervisor Danny Deaton, president of **Colbert County PAL of the Shoals**, spoke on the PAL of the Shoals during a meeting at Rose Trail.

Ranger **Kyle Desmond** and **Morgan County Supervisor Roger Nichols** have been busy presenting fire prevention programs to schools. Approximately 425 children were present at **Julian Harris Elementary School** in Decatur where a **Smokey Bear** video was shown, and around 50 children at **Priceville Kindergarten** participated in a program at their school.

TREASURE Forest Fame Ranch, owned by **Mr. and Mrs. Rick Hall** of Littleville in Colbert County, was the site of the **1988 North District Forestry Elimination**. Schools from nine Alabama counties including **Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Morgan, and Winston** participated in the competition. **Colbert County Ranger Wayne Winsted** and Staff Forester **Don Burdette** assisted with this year's District FFA forestry judging contest.

The **Colbert County Commission** furnished summer workers for eight weeks to pick up roadside litter along county roads. This was in support of PAL of the Shoals.

Reggie Wright and **Coleen Vansant** completed the spring segment of the AFC's forest ranger training. Those from District 9 completing the fire prevention edition of advanced ranger training were **Tammy Ellis**, **Kyle Desmond**, **Neil Taylor**, **Tim Gothard**, **Cary Rhodes**, **Reggie Wright**, and **Coleen Vansant**.

The **Morgan County AFC** presented a program on "A Special Kind of Care" and "Proper Tree Pruning" to the **Hartselle Tree Commission**.

Colbert Ranger Wayne Winsted presented grant checks to volunteer fire departments during the **Colbert County Volunteer Fire Department Association** meeting.

Talton Everett, **Colbert County** ranger, has been working all summer on the southern pine beetle problem in Colbert County. This has included aerial detection and control methods. He has also several salvage contracts near completion.

Senator **Roger Bedford** was on hand recently to present grant checks during a meeting of the **Franklin County Volunteer Firemen's Association**.

County Supervisor Steve McEachron has been working with the **Florence Tree Commission** in organizing the group's goals and objectives for the future. One of the projects on the drawing board is a botanical gardens or memorial tree garden in the Florence area.

Congratulations to **Tammy Ellis** for her promotion as **Covington County's** new county supervisor. **Tammy's** work in District 9 will be missed. Her promotion made her the first woman to serve as a county supervisor with the AFC!

DISTRICT

10

Jimmy Smitherman, **County Agent in Bullock County** recently got out his survey for the 1989 area-wide natural resources field day to be held on **Sedgefield Plantation** near Union Springs. Responses to the questionnaire will help determine the subjects of tours and site lectures for the event. This is to be an annual gathering of interested landowners and TF's from seven or more surrounding Alabama and Georgia counties. **Bullock Supervisor Otis French** said over 150 people attended the 1987 shindig.

Five new TREASURE Forests were certified at the June TF Committee session

from the five names submitted—a pretty good average for District 10. **Montgomery County** scored three newcomers to the TF list, **Bullock** and **Lee** each had one, for a total acreage exceeding 2400. Each of these landowners is doing an outstanding job of multiple-use management of their forests, and some inspectors feel the quality of management is improving each certification period.

The **E.V. Smith Experiment Farm** near Shorter in Macon County was the site in late June of a tree planting vendor demonstration and field day. About two dozen commercial planters attended. They saw the application of standards of acceptability for planted seedlings to qualify for government payment under CRP, ACP and other alphabet programs. **Robert Wiggins**, staff forester, had planned a sub-soiling demonstration which the schedule could not provide time for, but he gave the criteria for sub-soiling requirements as set by the ASCS.

The **Macon County Forestry Planning Committee** is in line for another award this year as an outstanding group doing good work. They have been leaders in developing educational events and practical management demonstrations for their county's landowners. Still ahead for Forester **Jerry McGhee's** group is establishing an independent and incorporated forest owners association and a basis of financial support from county funds of a comprehensive local forestry program.

Bullock County landowners are beginning a clean forest program through their major city's Chamber of Commerce that should get started this fall with a school program patterned after those suggested by **Betty Anne Force of PALS**. This will be the first of these projects in District 10 aimed at cleaning up our state for the big homecoming and reunion set for next year.

Elmore landowners were treated to a forest taxes short course/training session earlier this spring. **County Supervisor Lynn Justiss** got AFC Specialist **Lou Hyman** to attend the course as principal speaker. This was one of several such continuing information efforts offered to Elmore TF's and Creed signers.

CALENDAR*

October 11—Jefferson County, Alabama Forest Owners' Association, 7:30 p.m., AmSouth Bank, Hoover. Timberland as an Investment; Where Do We Go from Here? Learn where money will be made in forestry in the coming years. Professor Charles F. Raper will present the program. Dinner at Shoneys, 6:00 p.m.

October 25—Macon County, 9 a.m. "Learning from Success: a Small Acreage Landowner Conference." Will include a panel of minority landowners from Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana, plus two members of the Alabama Legislature. Call Dr. Peter Mount, 727-8809.

October 27—Russell County, 9 a.m. Tree Planting Survival Workshop and Discussion of Conservation Reserve Program Planting Regulations. Call Don Bice, 298-6845.

Oct. 31-Nov. 3—Athens, Georgia. Practicing Foresters Institute, Course II. Sponsored by the Association of Consulting Foresters and conducted at the University Continuing Education Center. Purpose of course is to provide the latest technical information to professional foresters who work with nonindustrial forest owners. Call Harry Murphy, 991-9516.

November 5—Jackson. Southwest Alabama Forestry and Wildlife Festival, Jackson Middle School starting at 10 a.m. Wildlife exhibits, taxidermy displays, recreational and lawn care equipment and more. Call John D. McGowin, 246-3185

*Any member agency of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee can be contacted for more information about listings in this section.

Reforestation—County Planning Committees at Work

by DAVID A. HOGE, Productivity Forester

When I was hired by the Alabama Forestry Commission over six years ago, I recall hearing frequently that forestry in Alabama was an untold story and that so much needed to be done. Recently I had the opportunity, along with other subcommittee members of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC), to evaluate the nominations for Outstanding County Forestry Planning Committees. There is a lot going on at the county level! I am amazed at some of the things various county committees are doing. At the risk of overlooking some of the counties—I'd like to mention a few that stood out among the nominations submitted:

Franklin	Tuscaloosa
Jackson	St. Clair
Geneva	Cullman
Macon	Coffee

As productivity forester for the Alabama Forestry Commission, I am biased toward those counties which excel in the area of reforestation. The latest tool which we use to measure our accomplishments in this area is the reforestation report submitted by the county committees to Jerry Johnson. The summation of these reports indicates that 4,841 nonindustrial private forest landowners regenerated 221,004 acres last year!

Reforestation Accomplishments

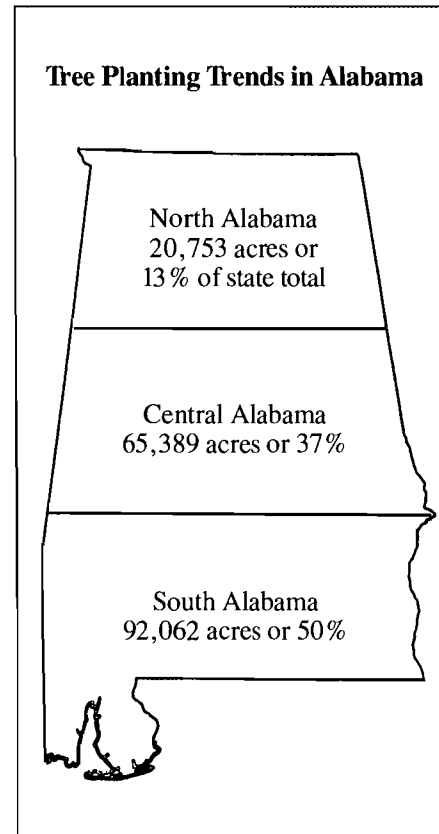
Coupled with the accomplishments of industry and government the reforestation totals for Alabama reported for 1988 is more than double that reported for 1982. Some may say that the increase is due to the addition of the Alabama Resource Conservation Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. While these programs have no doubt contributed to this increase, much credit must also go to the reforestation thrust of the AFPC and the efforts of the county committees.

Beginning with the 10 pilot counties in the reforestation project established in 1984, followed by the addition of eleven additional counties in 1985 and subsequent expansion to the entire state, we see the benefit of the county com-

mittees pooling their resources and cooperating on the attainment of a specific goal—reforestation.

Tree Planting

Early in 1988 Alabama reportedly was planting trees on the largest number of acres in the state's history—approximately 400,000 acres. Nonindustrial private forest landowners accounted for about 50% of this total. The greatest amount of tree planting is occurring in that portion of the state south of Montgomery.



Problems With Reforestation Report

As with all monitoring systems, the productivity subcommittee feels that the reforestation report can be improved by changing it slightly to avoid possible confusion (double reporting). Currently, the report contains three reforestation categories:

- (1) Openland
- (2) Cutover Unmanaged Timberland
- (3) Planned Regeneration

We are planning to amend the form, changing the categories to that of the following:

- (1) Openland Tree Planting
- (2) Forestland (Wildland) Tree Planting
- (3) Natural Regeneration

As with the old form, there will be two reporting periods (October-January and February-April). All reforestation in the county accomplished by nonindustrial private forest landowners during that reporting period will be reported to Jerry Johnson. County committees are urged to pool their resources, tap their expertise, and cooperate fully when compiling this report.

Future Challenges

While we can congratulate ourselves for our recent accomplishments in reforestation, there are still many challenges and much yet to be done. Steve Nix, resource analyst with the Alabama Forestry Commission, reports that according to U.S. Forest Service data, annual timber removals exceed annual timber growth in 21 counties in Alabama:

Autauga	Geneva	Mobile
Baldwin	Greene	Perry
Bibb	Hale	Pike
Blount	Henry	Randolph
Conecuh	Lamar	Shelby
Coosa	Lee	St. Clair
Dale	Lowndes	Wilcox

According to the 1982 Forest Survey of Alabama, there are 4.8 million acres of forestland which are understocked, (less than 60 percent stocked with growing-stock trees) and 1.7 million acres of cull stands (stands with more than 60 percent stocking of cull trees).

In addition, depending on which study you read or hear about, only about one nonindustrial private forest landowner out of six plans for regeneration prior to timber harvest. I personally think the nonindustrial private forest landowner in Alabama is doing a better job of forest management than these studies

indicate, thanks largely to the efforts of county committees and educational programs such as TREASURE Forest and Tree Farm.

The best approach to correcting this situation is to continue to attempt to contact all landowners harvesting timber, anticipating timber harvesting activities, or owning forestland in need of regeneration and to educate them as to the value of forestry and the need to have a forest management and regeneration plan. Perhaps the area of greatest potential is encouraging wider use of methods of natural regeneration. Given the limited resources of many county committees, it is essential that we maximize our efforts and concentrate our activities in the areas where it will do the most good.

One of the best tools I know which allows for the prioritization of reforestation activities is the use of satellite imagery/remote sensing. (See related story in this issue.)

It is the Productivity Subcommittee's job to provide the basic essential information needed by the county committees to do the job of reforesting Alabama. Recently I was watching a television documentary and heard a quote delivered by Winston Churchill concerning the British people and their determination to stop Nazi Germany at the height of the Battle of Britain, and I paraphrase the quote here: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

Personally, I prefer that the committees establish reforestation as one of their primary objectives. Working together there is nothing in the area of reforestation we cannot handle in due time.

I would also urge the county committees to develop the appropriate means to encourage private landowners to contact the county representative of the Alabama Forestry Commission concerning their reforestation activities, preferably prior to harvest. This contact would allow the county committees to develop more accurate reforestation reports.

To those county committees doing a good job, I encourage you to continue to do so. To those presently struggling, you are making progress! Possible suggestions for improvement include better publicity of your activities, including representatives from forest industry, private consultants and private landowners on your committees; meeting regularly; and restricting activities to priority areas reflective of committee restraints. ♣

What a Landowner Should Do Before Selling Timber

by NORMAN K. KINNEY, Registered Forester

Before selling your timber, have a goal. Income is a major consideration, but some sacrifice may be necessary to obtain your longterm objectives. Before you cut, decide what you are going to do afterwards to upgrade the stand—regeneration, game habitat, and other considerations. Plan ahead and use proper management. Consult your accountant regarding your tax situation, as well as the tax credits and amortization that is available for reforestation costs.

Prior Planning

First, let's be sure we start at the beginning. Do you own the land? This sounds like a simple enough question—one that everybody should be able to answer. You may own the land with others. If you do not own the land, will the owner or owners sign a contract to sell the timber? If you do own it alone, are you married? If you are, will your wife or husband sign the timber deed? If the land is in a life estate, the future owners (remaindermen) must also sign the agreement. If it is in an estate which is undivided, will the other heirs sign the agreement? Is there a mortgage on the land? If so, will the holder of the mortgage release the timber for sale? Generally, they will, with provisions to pay some of the proceeds to them. Be aware of anything that might prevent your having clear title to the land. The purchaser will more than likely do a title search, but anything you know of that may cloud the title will help expedite his investigation of this matter and speed up the closing.

From what areas are you going to sell the timber? These areas should be mapped either by a drawing or an aerial photograph with the sale area indicated on it. Know where the sale boundaries are on the ground and be prepared to show them. The boundaries need to be marked, and can be flagged, painted, or blazed; or fences or fields can designate the edges of the sale area.

Also, is there anything in the sale area you do not want disturbed such as fences, roads, property corners, cultivated fields, buildings, scenic or special areas, or croplands? You need to keep in mind the areas that will be off limits to the logger.

How much and what sort of products are you selling? Are you going to clear-cut? Are you selectively marking the trees to be cut? Who's going to do the marking? It is important that someone, preferably a professional forester, mark the trees to be removed and calculate the volume to be cut, as well as supervise the harvesting operation. This will insure protection of the trees you want to leave and that you get paid for the products removed. If you are thinning, is it all pulpwood, all sawtimber, or a mixture? Selling timber by diameter limit is considered the worst way to sell timber because the best is cut, leaving poor quality trees to continue growing. As you continually go through diameter limit cuts, you will high grade your stand and have nothing but the inferior trees left to regenerate the stand.

Protect yourself. Know how much timber you are selling and what it is worth on a competitive market. With stumpage prices as high as they are now, it pays to have your timber cruised and appraised by a professional forester knowledgeable of the current timber market. Consultants can cruise your stand and give you an appraisal, as well as offer the timber for sale on a competitive bid basis. This way, you receive the highest price possible for your timber. The Alabama Forestry Commission can advise you and give you information which will be helpful in finding a consultant.

The cruise information you receive should include some of the following facts: DBH, which is the diameter of the trees at breast height (4 1/2 feet above the ground); heights—either total heights or merchantable heights (will it be at 4 inch tops, 8 inch tops, 6 inch tops or 12 inch tops?). It is also

helpful to know what log heights the timber buyer will use. For example, will they take 16-foot logs only, will they use 18-foot log lengths or will they accept 12-foot log lengths?

A board foot is 1 inch by 1 inch by 12 inches. This can be calculated in Scribner scale, which underestimates on larger trees; in Doyle scale which underestimates on smaller trees; or can be done on International Rule, which is supposed to be right, but no one uses it. You may want to sell by the cord, which is a stack of wood 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet—92 cubic feet of wood, but 128 cubic feet of space. Timber can also be sold by the ton—2,000 pounds. There's a number with which we can identify!

Weight factors are important also. They are determined by species, form class, number of logs, grade, whether they are paying by Doyle or Scribner scale, as well as other factors. Pine sawtimber generally runs 9,500 to 16,000 pounds per thousand board feet. Pine pulpwood runs from 5,150 pounds to 5,900 pounds per cord. If you sell by weight, selling by the ton is the best. You still should know how much timber you have to sell and what it is worth.

Competitive Bidding

Send out invitations to bid to at least four or five different major companies. Watch connections between companies, dealers, and producers, though. Don't just invite four or five local people to bid, they may all work for the same person. The Forestry Commission and Alabama Landowner's Association have lists of bidders available for your use. However, letting a consulting

forester knowledgeable of the current prices as well as present market conditions in your area assist you with selling your timber on the competitive market will usually bring the highest price.

Contract

Always have a contract, even if it's only in letter form. Timber is real estate until it is severed. It does require a written contract. It protects you and the buyer. I also recommend that you not accept the buyer's contract without first having an attorney or another forester review it.

A timber sale contract should contain the name of the agreement (timber sale agreement), the county and state where the timber is located, the date entered into, and the names of the seller and purchaser and where they are located (city and state).

It should also contain the consideration, or the amount of money to be received if it is a lump sum sale, or a listing of the prices to be paid per cord or per thousand board feet, with the weights or scales that will be used. State to whom the checks should be payable, when payments should be made (usually weekly), and where payments should be sent. A copy of the scale tickets should accompany the payments. State what you are selling, sale area acreage, and the location of the sale area. For example, "all merchantable trees on 40 acres," or "all trees marked with two spots of blue tree marking paint on 40 acres, which may be described as follows:" Here you should have a legal description of the land. Refer to an attached map of the

sale area which will become a part of the contact.

A disclaimer may also be included. You do not make a guarantee as to the quality of trees conveyed by the agreement. The buyer will have looked at the timber and will have determined for himself the quality and quantity of the trees.

The contract should include a specific expiration date. It should also provide that the purchaser will release the timber sale if cutting is completed prior to the expiration date.

You should guarantee title to the property and agree to defend it against any and all claims for taxes, mortgages, and any other encumbrances.

Ingress (right of entrance) and egress (right of exit) to the sale area and adjoining areas is granted. I would suggest that you include here that this access will be at mutually agreed upon locations. This will allow you to determine where the roads will be, instead of the logger going in and out anywhere he wishes.

Other stipulations might include the following:

1. A disclaimer for death, injury, or damage to the purchaser, its agents or workmen, and equipment.
2. A provision to cut low stumps and utilize all cut trees.
3. Protection clause for improvements, such as fences, gates, roads, property corners, crops, etc. from damage.
4. Protection clause for unmarked trees or trees outside the designated sale area from cutting and logging damage.



5. Clean-up provision for trash, paper, cables, cans, etc. that purchaser produces while harvesting the timber.
6. A pre-cutting conference which calls for a meeting of the owner and/or his agent, the purchaser, and equipment operators to review the provisions of the contract and point out especially sensitive areas or specific requirements such as waterbars.
7. An agreement that the purchaser should maintain workmen's compensation and public liability insurance.
8. Requirement that the purchaser should frequently inspect the logging operation to insure contract compliance.

There should be a place for date of signature, followed by signature lines for the seller and purchaser and a place for two witnesses to sign for each. There should be a notary public affirmation for the seller.

Your contract should contain provisions to protect you. You want to stipulate what you want done and how you want it done. Try to avoid stiff penalties for cutting unmarked trees or damaging leave trees, since courts generally throw these out. You are usually allowed double stumpage for any trees excessively damaged or cut without permission. By stating in the contract that certain trees are excluded from the sale and must be protected, you are covered. You also have the power under the contract to stop harvesting should the logger not comply with the contract stipulations.

Cost Share Programs

Be aware that there are programs available to landowners (cost share programs) which assist in re-establishing timberland. There are also tax incentives available for reforestation costs.

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) which was begun in 1973, pays cost shares for reforestation of cutover timberland. The government reimburses landowners for up to 65% of the cost or a maximum of \$10,000 per year per landowner. The program covers site preparation, planting, timber stand improvement, and natural regeneration. This program is providing assistance on an average of approximately 8,000 acres per year in Alabama now and is administered by the Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) with the assistance of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) began in 1936 and is primarily for erosion control. It reimburses landowners for up to 60% of the cost with a maximum of \$3,500 per year per landowner. The ACP is now providing assistance on an average of 15,000 acres per year and covers site preparation and planting. It is also administered by the ASCS.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is for eligible erodible cropland. Owners bid a yearly rental and also receive cost shares (a maximum of \$50,000 per year) for up to 50% of the cost for site preparation, planting, and weed control. About 75,000 acres per year are now being converted to timberland under this program. This, too, is administered by the ASCS.

A state program, the Alabama Resource Conservation Program (ARCP), pays 60% of the cost with a \$3,500 per year limit for site preparation, tree planting, timber stand improvement, and natural regeneration. Approximately 30,000 acres per year are being reforested under this program which is administered by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Contact your local ASCS and SCS office to find out the availability of these programs in your area. Each county has its own guidelines as to how much they

pay, depending on the funds available. Check on these programs and make your applications for assistance while your timber sale is in progress so that, hopefully, you will have received approval for assistance by the time you are ready to begin the reforestation work.

Summary

In summary, know what you own and if you can sell it. Know the area you are going to sell. Know what you are selling—get it appraised. Know how you will be paid—whether it will be lump sum, in which you are paid in advance, (the preferred method), or pay-as-you-cut (mill scale)—what scales, weight, etc., are used and will the proper trees go to the proper product. You have to be very watchful of this. Get as many bids as possible and make sure you have a written contract to protect both parties.

When you have finished with your timber sale, the trees have been harvested, and the man has paid you, what are you going to do next? Hopefully, you have planned for regeneration, or a prescribed burn if an interim cut. Plan ahead. Before you finish the timber sale you should know what you are going to do when the harvest is completed. You will need to decide whether you are going to regenerate your stand naturally or by site preparation and planting. ♣

Cosby Promoted

Earl Cosby has been named Deputy State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Alabama, says State Conservationist Ernest Todd. He assumed his position August 15.

"Earl is a professional conservationist. In his new assignment he will assist in all areas of program and management," Todd said.

Cosby has been serving as the Assistant State Conservationist in charge of programs in Auburn for more than two years. He has been working with the USDA, Soil Conservation Service for nearly 20 years.

Since February, 1986, as the Assistant State Conservationist, Cosby has been responsible for implementing special programs, developing and carrying out the plan of operations, and providing leadership in rural development land use activities.

As Deputy State Conservationist, Cosby will share the responsibility of managing and directing the administrative and technical functions involved in planning, organizing and implementing the soil, water and resource conservation and development programs for the State of Alabama. ♣



Earl Cosby

A Hunter's Paradise—CEDAR HEIGHTS

by TIMOTHY C. BOYCE, Development Division Director

Southeast of Pittsview, Alabama, in Russell County, lies 6,500 acres of prime timberland and wildlife habitat, known as Cedar Heights Plantation. Cedar Heights has been handed down from generation to generation and is now owned and managed by Lewis Holmes. The plantation was established in 1840 as a pecan and cotton plantation, with wildlife management as a secondary objective.

The plantation home stands as it did in the 1840's, and has been recognized on the National Historic Register. While the main floor of the home has been preserved in its original state, the basement has been renovated and is used by members of the Cedar Heights Hunting Club.

Timber Management

When the property was inherited in 1983, Holmes began an active forest management program. A pine regeneration program is now underway. Most of the pine stands on the property range from one to eight years old; however, there are scattered tracts of pure pine. The majority of the property is covered in mixed pine hardwood.

A sound timber management program could not exist without an adequate road system. Main roads are maintained by using a motor grader and old logging roads are bush hogged to guard against erosion. Where erosion occurs, roads are usually seeded with grass. Bush hogged roads make excellent bugging areas for turkey.

Wildlife Comes First

There was an active wildlife management program at Cedar Heights before any serious considerations were given to timber production. Scattered throughout the property are 40 to 50 wildlife food plots maintained for deer and turkey. Species included on food plots include soybeans, chufa, ryegrass, wheat, clover and joint vetch. Native mast producing trees, such as red and white oak, and planting of sawtooth oak and autumn olive are maintained around plots. The autumn olive plant-

ings are a specific source of pride. All food plots and other types of wildlife improvement are done with assistance of the local hunting club, consisting of 20 members.

Included in the deer management program is the establishment of mineral salt licks which are maintained in the same area year after year. Establishment of these licks includes first loosening the soil, then mixing in the mineral salt at the rate of 20 pounds per lick. Mineral salt is added in early summer and replenished in late July or August. Deer seem to frequent salt licks during the hot summer months; therefore, they can be viewed and photographed during the summer months, and the observation gives an idea of the nutritional level of the herd.

Both stalk and stand hunting are the basic techniques used to harvest deer, with stand hunting being the major method utilized. No dog drives are conducted. The hunting club believes in high quality deer stands for two reasons: (1) comfort allows the hunter to stay in the stands longer; and (2) safety. Only high-quality, well-built stands are utilized at Cedar Heights. Several of the large fields are leased to local farmers and stands have been located on these fields which serve as active food plots.

Over the last few years, Holmes has planted Virginia pine in areas where deer can be observed from public roads. These make an excellent screen to discourage poaching from public rights-of-way.

Firebreaks are maintained along all public roads and throughout the plantation, especially in areas that have been recently site-prepared and planted to pine. These firebreaks also serve as access roads for hunting parties.

Prescribed burning is used frequently at Cedar Heights for both timber and wildlife management. The fire opens the woods to allow greater visibility, and young sprouts that return after the fires are utilized are preferred by a variety of wildlife species.

If this sounds like a lot of work, rest

assured that it is. Work parties, consisting of club members, are organized three or four weekends each year for building new deer stands, repairing existing stands, and planting food plots.

In addition to the 6,500 acres owned by Lewis Holmes, the wildlife management program includes 3,000 acres of property known as the Glenville Plantation, and 3,500 leased acres. This gives Cedar Heights Club members over 12,000 acres on which to hunt and fish.

Several fish ponds are utilized by the hunting club, most of which have been stocked with bass and bream. Ponds that are located in bottomland hardwood areas are actively used by waterfowl. Since there are only limited areas that offer this type of waterfowl habitat, waterfowl hunting is prohibited; however, many enjoyable hours are spent by club members observing the waterfowl as they frequent these areas.

Managing 12,000 acres takes a lot of equipment and maintenance, which requires a shop. At Cedar Heights, this facility is much more than just a shop. In addition to the equipment maintenance area, the complex includes (1) an archery, rifle and pistol range facility where all members spend many hours to ensure that the loss due to poor marksmanship is kept to a minimum, and that young and inexperienced hunters are given an opportunity to develop their skills; (2) a deer skinning and weighing shed; (3) processing and cold storage facilities so deer can be aged before processing; (4) main headquarters for the hunting club, including a kitchen and bunk house for members who prefer to stay in the shop area rather than using the plantation home; and (5) the plantation office and reloading room.

Sportsmanship and hunting ethics are paramount at Cedar Heights. In the office area is a large aerial photograph of the entire property. All permanent hunting stands are marked on the aerial photograph. Club members tag the stands that they will be utilizing in the morning and afternoon. This process

allows each hunter to coordinate with other hunters as to their whereabouts, which allows a safe hunt.

Deer Management Program

Several years ago the deer management program started in Alabama. Cedar Heights was selected as one of the original 10 clubs to begin the program. Several options exist in the deer management program. Cedar Heights uses the trophy deer management strategy. Under this strategy, a large number of antlerless deer are harvested annually, and generally only the larger trophy size bucks are removed. Smaller, well-formed antler deer are allowed to develop until they reach trophy size. All deer are weighed and

jawbones extracted to determine their age before they are processed. This strategy has been working quite well at Cedar Heights, and most of the members possess trophy deer mounts. Even the young members have harvested respectable trophy deer.

A club rule has been established at Cedar Heights. "IF YOU ARE NOT SURE, DON'T SHOOT." This rule is strictly enforced under the deer management program as well as for safety purposes. If there is any doubt about the size of a harvested deer, an established panel makes the final decision. If, in fact, the deer is determined to be undersize, a fine equal to the cost of a shoulder mount is imposed.

Cedar Heights Plantation truly is a

treasure. Many hours of enjoyable recreation have been provided through capable management. Although the club members do pay a fee for the privilege to hunt at Cedar Heights Plantation, they are much, much more than a revenue source to Holmes. They are his friends, advisors, workers and partners. To Lewis Holmes, Cedar Heights Plantation is not a family heirloom, a place to hunt, or a revenue source. To him, Cedar Heights Plantation is a way of life. It's a place where he was born, a place he loves and cherishes, a place he can be proud to raise his family and bring his friends. He will be leaving a legacy for his heirs to follow—"a true treasure"—a TREASURE Forest. ♣

YOU Ought To Be In Pictures!

Seven TREASURE Forest Awards were given out in Butler County on July 28. This set a record for the most awards given out in one county at one time. The landowners, who are related, each own a portion of a large tract of land. All seven forests are managed by Marvin Odom. Two recipients are co-owners, Cleveland and Calvin Poole III.

Pictured left to right are: Chris Waller, Jr.; Paul Schrantz, Butler County Forestry Planning Committee; Francis Griffith, TREASURE Forest recipient; Ann McKinnon; Frances Gravely, TREASURE Forest recipient; Cleveland

Poole, TREASURE Forest recipient; Frances Parker; Marvin Odom, manager of the seven TREASURE Forests; Jennie Viere Poole; Calvin Poole III, TREASURE Forest recipient; Elizabeth Shanks, TREASURE Forest recipient; Barry Wood, Butler County Forestry Planning Committee; Caroline Ryan, TREASURE Forest recipient; Roy Kendrick, Butler County Forestry Planning Committee; Mrs. Tommy Shanks; Tommy Shanks; Brandon Burkett, Alabama Forestry Commission. TREASURE Forest recipients not pictured are Thomas Poole and Calvin Poole, Sr.



Tree Planting

It's Worth Doing Right

by DAVID A. HOGE,
Reforestation Specialist



The Alabama Forestry Commission has been concerned over the quality of tree seedling planting occurring in the state. A set of reforestation standards has been developed which is both strict and yet reasonable. These standards were presented in the Winter, 1988 issue of this magazine ("Planting Trees? Standards Can Help Ensure Survival"). Following the 1987-88 planting season, these standards were revised. What follows is a synopsis of

the standards that are in effect for the 1988-89 planting season. The only significant difference is a slight modification in the correctly planted percentage requirement for compliance in order to receive cost-share assistance.

Seedling Quality

From the time the tree seedling roots are separated from the nursery soil until the roots reestablish contact with

the soil at the planting site, there is a gradual, cumulative loss in the survival potential of the seedling. Individually, these events may seem insignificant, but the cumulative effects can be very important, with plantation failure being the occasional result. (See TABLE I).

The Alabama Forestry Commission is committed to doing all it can to ensure that a viable seedling suitable for planting is shipped from the State nurseries. Upon receipt, it becomes the respon-

TABLE I

Four Days in the Life of a Mishandled Seedling

Event	Elapsed Time	Type of Damage	Survival Time of Event	Loss % Cumulative
LIFTING				
• Loss of roots and mycorrhizae	2 min.	Physical	9	9
• Seedlings placed in tubs, exposed to sun and wind prior to pickup	20 min.	Desiccation	7	16
PACKING				
• Unloading seedlings in packing and area, separation of seedlings	2 min.	Physical Desiccation	6	22
• Exposure of seedlings on the grading belt	30 sec.	Desiccation	2	24
Rough handling	30 sec.	Physical	5	29
SHIPPING				
• Bags improperly stacked	2 hrs	Physical, Overheating	7	36
STORAGE				
• Temporary storage lacks adequate ventilation	2 days	Overheating	9	45
PLANTING				
• Exposure during planting	20 min.	Desiccation	5	50
*Realize that this chart concerns loss of survival potential which need not occur provided seedlings are properly cared for and handled correctly				

sibility of the recipient to properly care for the seedlings until planting in order to maintain seedling quality. During planting, seedlings must be handled and planted correctly to enhance survival potential. Seedling quality should continually be monitored so that only healthy, vigorous seedlings are planted. The Alabama Forestry Commission has established the following minimum standards for plantable Southern pine seedlings: (See **TABLE II**)

Defective Planting

Our evaluations indicate that the most common types of defective planting are planting seedlings of less than minimum standards, J-, U-, and L-rooting of seedlings, improper pruning of seedling roots, planting seedlings at incorrect depths, and failure to properly pack soil around seedling roots.

Many of these problems are the direct result of soil conditions which prevent proper planting of tree seedlings. Sites having such soils are identified in the management plan prepared by the forest technician for all cost-share cases. Vendors are urged to consult with landowners and become aware of the tree planting recommendations contained within the prepared management plans. A central concept to the Commission's reforestation standards is that *being unaware of our recommendations will no longer be tolerated.*

Compliance Requirements

For the 1988-89 planting season, in order for the tree planting practice to be approved and the participant to be eligible to receive cost-share assistance, 75% of the number of tree seedlings recommended in the management plan must be found to be alive and correctly planted at the time of final inspection by the forest technician. In addition, the total number of seedlings planted per acre must not exceed 125% of the number of seedlings recommended in the management plan. These standards are in effect for all four cost-share assistance programs available in Alabama—the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), the Alabama Resource Conservation Program (ARCP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).

Inspection Procedures

Following notification that a tree planting practice has been completed, the forest technician will conduct an inspection of the planted area. This in-

TABLE II

Minimum Standards for Plantable Southern Pine Seedlings.

Species	Longleaf	Loblolly/Slash	Shortleaf
Characteristics			
Stem Length (in.)	*	5	5
Root Collar Diameter.	(in.) 3/16	1/8	1/8
Root Length (in.)	5	5	5
Winter Buds	Present	Present	Present
Nature of Stem	*	Stiff, woody with bark	Stiff, woody with bark
Mycorrhizae	Present	Present	Present
* Minimum needle length for longleaf pine has been set at 8 inches.			

spection will consist of a sampling of 1/100 acre circular plots distributed across the planted area. From this sample, an estimation of the number of correctly planted seedlings per acre will be made. This estimate will be compared against the recommendations contained in the management plan for compliance. Again, in order for a tree planting practice to be approved for cost-share assistance, the number of correctly planted seedlings per acre must be within 25% of the number of seedlings per acre recommended in the management plan. Participants have until May 1 to correct any planting deficiencies detected during the inspection process that will result in disapproval of the tree planting practice.

Conclusion

The reforestation standards that are in effect for the 1988-89 planting season are summarized in **TABLE III**. For additional information, please contact your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission. In addition, vendor and landowner sessions will be held across the state during the months of September and October to further educate the tree planting community as to the new standards. Remember, successful tree planting is the joint responsibility of the landowner, tree planting vendor and the Alabama Forestry Commission. The landowner must obtain good quality seedlings suitable for planting, properly care for those seedlings, and locate a reputable vendor to correctly plant them. Simply stated, the tree planting vendor must provide the highest quality service, and the Alabama Forestry Commission must provide quality seedlings from the State nurseries, develop appropriate management plans for cost-share cases, and conduct inspections in an efficient and effective manner to ensure that landowners receive cost-share payments in a timely manner. The Alabama Forestry Commission encourages landowner and vendor alike to engage in written contracts. Finally, your artificially regenerated TREASURE Forest of tomorrow, begins with your nursery stock and the manner in which it is handled and planted today.

Author's Note: The Alabama Forestry Commission is still taking orders for pine seedlings. For additional information, contact the Nurseries Section, 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130, telephone number (205) 240-9345.

TABLE III

Summary of Reforestation Standards.

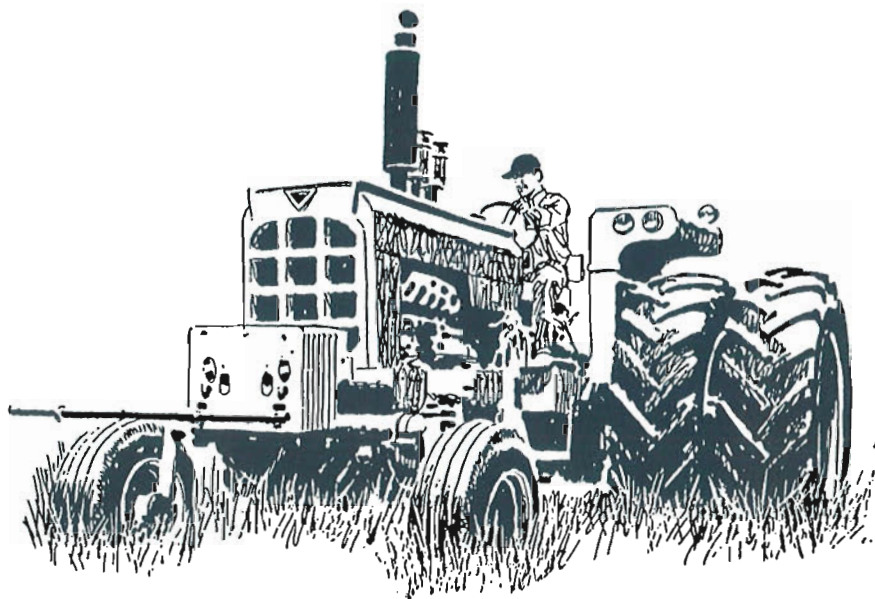
1. For the applicant to receive cost share assistance for tree seedling planting in Alabama, 75% of the number of seedlings recommended in the management plan by the forest technician must be found to be alive and correctly planted at the time of inspection.
2. Only seedlings of Grade 1 or Grade 2 quality are to be planted. Seedlings which fail to meet minimum standards for plantable seedlings should be culled in the field. Cull seedlings which are planted will be counted as incorrectly planted at the time of final inspection.
3. Seedlings must be transported and stored correctly and planted within two weeks of leaving the nursery. Coolers should be kept at 33° to 40° Fahrenheit and relative humidity at between 85% and 95%.
4. Seedlings are perishable; it is therefore, vitally important to reduce the likelihood of lethal heating or freezing or root exposure to desiccation. Seedling roots must be kept cool and moist at all times.
5. Plant seedlings December through March, preferably on days when the temperature is between 33° to 75° Fahrenheit, the relative humidity is above 50%, the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour, and the soil contains abundant moisture.
6. Only plant seedlings of native species that are adapted to specific site.
7. Planting recommendations are site specific. The total number of planted seedlings found on site must be within 25 percent of the number recommended in the management plan by the forest technician.
8. When planting, be sure planting hole is clean of debris.
9. Seedlings must be planted at the correct depth, with taproot extending downward at least five inches below the ground surface and with at least three inches of stem and the terminal bud above ground (except for longleaf).
10. Seedling roots must be straight in the hole, with no exposed roots and not twisted, balled or planted in a J-, U-, or excessively L-shaped manner. A short L root occurring at greater than five inches soil depth is acceptable.
11. Improper angling of the root, defined as greater than 30 degrees from the vertical, is not acceptable. Stem angles greater than 45 degrees from the vertical are, likewise, not acceptable.
12. The soil must be firmly packed around seedling roots. Firmness of packing will be checked by the "four-needle test."
13. Compliance inspections will be made by Forestry Commission representatives within six weeks following notification of forest practice completion, and will consist of a representative sampling of 1/100 acre plots distributed uniformly across the planted area.
14. An appropriate planting review form will be completed for each area inspected. The completed planting review form will be placed in the applicant's file along with the referral form. Suitable copies should be maintained by the Forestry Commission representative.
15. It is highly recommended that written contracts be executed for the protection of both vendor and landowner.

Farmers Need Conservation Plan for Erodible Land

Several months ago, many farmers throughout the state were notified by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) that they were farming highly erodible cropland. These fields fall under the Conservation Compliance Provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill. The bill requires producers who are planting annually tilled crops on highly erodible land to develop and apply a conservation plan to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

Farmers must have their plans developed and approved by the local soil and water conservation district before January 1, 1990. Practices called for in the plan to protect the land must be installed by January 1, 1995.

Many thousands of farmers have already developed their plans with USDA assistance. SCS is again asking farmers with highly erodible cropland who have not developed their plan to come in and request assistance in



developing it. Assistance should be requested at your local SCS office.

All USDA programs and services are

available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.



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