The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-resolution image of the American flag, showing the texture of the fabric and the stars and stripes. The colors are vibrant, with a deep blue, bright white, and a rich red.

ALABAMA'S
TREASURED
FORESTS

FALL 2001

**United We Stand
God Bless America**



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

I recently attended the Alabama Interagency Wildland Fire Academy training session in Shelby County. Before I got there I really didn't know what to expect, but when I left I was impressed with not only the efforts that went into organizing and putting on such a large event, but I also realized the impact this training would have on the many Alabama communities and cities represented.

Over 140 wildland and structural firefighters from 22 paid and volunteer fire departments, state and federal agencies and forest industry attended this training course. It was the first of its kind held in Alabama and took place May 11-20 at the Head-Cleveland Farm, TREASURE Forest of retired federal judge Melford Cleveland.

The number of participants was evidence that the training offered was much needed. Although many of the attendees were from structural fire departments, the need for wildland fire training has in recent years become more important because of the increasing occurrence of wildfires in heavily populated areas. These men and women received certified training from some of the most qualified instructors in the state and they will be able to carry this knowledge back to their communities where they can be instrumental in providing better fire service to the citizens they serve.

The 10-day training course was developed and coordinated by the Jefferson-Shelby Wildland-Urban Interface Advisory Board. This group has been active for years in planning and providing education of wildland-urban interface in the Jefferson and Shelby county areas. They brought together many agencies and companies who provided resources and services to make this much needed and vital training a reality.

The success of this fire-training academy proved there is a hunger for these firefighters to receive more knowledge and experience. In the 2000 wildfire, season Alabama had over 6,500 wildfires that burned approximately 89,000 acres. Many of the firefighters that participated in this training were part of the force that responded to these wildfires. It is important that these firefighters received the best training possible in order for them not only to do their job in the best and most safe manner, but that they are able to provide the people in the communities, towns and cities they represent the best fire protection possible.

The Alabama Forestry Commission was one of the sponsors of the event this year and I have already pledged our support for another edition of the same training to be held next year. I urge other agencies and companies to also take part in making this training possible so that together we can make Alabama a better place today and in the future.

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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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Front Cover: American's unite in a show of patriotism as they heal from the events of September 11, 2001 (see page 8.) Graphic by The Tapley Finklea Group, Montgomery.

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Sharing A Treasure



By MADLINE HILDRETH, Management Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission, Brewton

“Welcome to Booker’s Mill,” Don Stinson proudly announces to over one hundred first graders. The alert children listen intently as Mr. Stinson gives them a brief history of the property. The wriggling students appear interested as he explains that the old country store used to be the hub of the community, along with a gristmill. They anticipate seeing the bottomland hardwoods, flowering rhododendron, a log cabin and Indians! All of this is on the Stinson’s 215-acre TREASURE Forest.

Following their guide’s directions, the children begin the adventure. The first stop is a true Indian teepee. The Stinson’s erected the teepee years ago. They began with a homemade teepee and later replaced it with a huge Indian teepee. It is left up year-round, much to the delight of passersby’s. This particular morning the Poarch Band of Creek Indians explain how Native Americans, as well as others, used the teepee.

Next, the kids tromp down the nature trail. The trail winds along the banks of the lake. They are instructed to use all



Don and Grace Stinson

senses, except tasting. The students stop to feel soft moss growing on a bank, they smell honeysuckle and rhododendrons which form a pink wall along the edge of the trail. A decaying log and sweet gum balls are observed. In the quiet of a hardwood bottom they hear

birds sing, water rushing and the wind blowing. The children walk slowly and quietly across two bridges, carefully noting the water bugs and the stream flowing through the roots of an old tree. After a strenuous walk up a steep hill, the students learn more about forestry by playing games.

A hayride offers an opportunity to see the property. The guide points out a tiny cabin at the top of a steep hill. This is the first cabin the Stinson’s built. Later they see an odd clump of briars. Imagine their surprise when an ugly troll pops out! The hayride passes swimming holes and streams, swamps and fields.

After the hayride, the kids rush to the log cabin. The cabin was bought and rebuilt on-site and was originally the kitchen of a larger home. Mrs. Stinson and her sister explain how the cabin was used in the 1800s. The children wander from the cabin to the stage area. Comfortably sitting on benches, they watch with wonder as birds, snakes and other native animals are exhibited and discussed. A picnic lunch on the grassy knoll above the pond follows. After a



The old mill wheel still stands.

visit from Smokey Bear and other characters, the tired students return to school.

Each year the Stinson's devote one full week to student field days. For the past 5 years, Escambia County first graders have traveled to Booker's Mill. As retired educators, the Stinson's believe in using their property for educational purposes. While a number of agency personnel, including Alabama Forestry Commission associates, participate in the event, the Stinson's are involved in every part of the project. Mrs. Stinson's sister and cousin often come just to help. This group is one of many that visit Booker's Mill and Stinson Springs each year. They

have also hosted teacher's workshops and landowner groups.

The Stinson's did not intentionally plan to host so many events and visitors. It just happened. Don and Grace Stinson worked in the Pensacola, Florida school system for many years. They always enjoyed their beach house retreat until it became more of a burden than a place to rest. Don's father, a Methodist minister, began looking for a place to retire. He wanted a place in the country, near his old home. Although the elder Mr. Stinson died before he purchased any property, Don and Grace continued to look for a country retreat. A co-worker told Mr. Stinson about some property for sale in rural Conecuh County. It was love at first sight! To some, the property might be considered worthless swamp-land. The Stinson's, however, saw the perfect backdrop for their rustic retreat.

Their plan was simple - take it one step at a time. The property had been neglected for years, leaving quite a bit of work to be done. Clearing the knoll was the first step; the next step was a cabin atop the hill. Although Conecuh County does not typically have steep terrain, above the creek is very steep. The cabin is perched high above the massive oaks in the bottomland. Grace and Don Stinson built the cabin with no formal construction training. They wanted a very rustic, secluded retreat, and it is both. Since there was no road leading to the cabin site, building materials were carried up the steep trail on Mr. Stinson's shoulders. He confesses to having a special appreciation for the

pyramid builders. Below the cabin are 13 springs. The main spring was renamed Stinson Springs. The springs provide wonderful swimming holes, as well as water for wildlife.

The Stinson's were so proud of their completed cabin that they invited many friends and co-workers to visit. Sharing the property was never a question; it was just what they did. When two adjoining parcels were sold, the Stinson's were delighted to be able to purchase them. They were especially pleased when they became owners of an old country store. Although dilapidated, the store was restored and the grounds cleared and landscaped. The old 1880s dam near the store required extensive repairs. Since both the dam and store are visible from the nearby country road, visitors dropped by much more frequently. The store retains the name of its previous owners, Booker's Mill. The Stinson's briefly considered renaming it, but decided history should be preserved.

The new acreage allowed the Stinson's to add new structures to the property. An old log cabin from the Stinson's family was dismantled and rebuilt on the property. The cabin, originally built in 1887, was put together with pegs. Hack marks numbered the logs making rebuilding simpler. After this project was complete, a new log cabin was erected from cedar logs off the property. Later, additional cabins were added to comfortably house

A nature trail winds through bottomland hardwoods.





Beautiful wildflowers grace this grassy opening.

family members. A covered stage and a barbecue area are perfect for entertaining large groups. Mrs. Stinson smiles when discussing their projects, “We’ll never be finished. Don is always looking for the next project.” Since they have done most of the work themselves, their projects keep getting more detailed and elaborate.

The Stinson’s have been working with the Alabama Forestry Commission since 1979. Since most of the original land was bottomland hardwood, little management was required until Hurricane Opal ripped through. Damaged trees were removed, and the areas have naturally regenerated. As they acquired open areas, pines were planted and food plots created and maintained. Every year, a few more acres of pines are planted. One small stand of pines is on a regular burning rotation.

When asked about food plots, Mr. Stinson listed chufa, sorghum and peas as species planted. “The peas,” laughed Mrs. Stinson, “were originally for us, but the deer won!”

Good stewardship is important to the Stinson’s. They have passed these ideals on to their family. Their daughters, Sharon and Gina, are very involved in the property’s management. The grandchildren love to visit the TREASURE Forest and help with the projects. All the extended family contributes to events.

The fourth Sunday in October highlights the family’s commitment to Stinson Springs, as over 500 family

members gather for the annual reunion. Since 1983, hayrides, skydivers, cloggers, and singers have all been part of the entertainment at Booker’s Mill.


In addition to school programs and family reunions, the property has also been the site of several weddings. The first couple wed on the property many years ago and honeymooned in the rustic cabin. Scout groups often camp on the property. Church groups and senior citizens have also been guests.

According to Mr. Stinson, different groups make different requests. Once a

senior citizen’s group requested entertainment! Always one to please, Mr. Stinson located a talented musician in Evergreen willing to play and sing for the group. Visitors from France, South Africa, Portugal and Holland have toured the Stinson property. Often interesting people just appear. The site is listed in the state tour guide as having a gristmill. Visitors may initially be disappointed not to find a working mill, only the site of an old gristmill. But after a few minutes, the disappointment fades as they fall under the spell of the natural beauty of the property.

The many visitors might be unsettling to some, but the Stinson’s thrive on being able to share their retreat. “It reaffirms your faith in mankind,” says Mr. Stinson. “I can’t remember one negative experience.”

TREASURE Forest landowners since 1990, Don and Grace Stinson are avid supporters of the program. Don is chairman of the local Alabama TREASURE Forest Association chapter and will be state chairman next year. They have been involved in many groups supporting their values and beliefs, but find that TREASURE Forest represents all the facets they support - education, stewardship, mentoring and God.

Grace and Don Stinson are proud of their TREASURE Forest and continue to share the fruits of their labor. If you’re ever in Conecuh County, stop by and look around. Just remember that this TREASURE Forest is a work in progress. 



This pond is one of many water sources on the property.

Coosa County 4-H Wildlife Team Wins National Honors

By **ROGER VINES**, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Coosa County



(L-R) Coach Roger Vines, team members Amanda Luker, Emily Vines, Tiler Lamberth, Coach Joel Glover, and team member Holly Cordner.

The Coosa County wildlife team won first place honors this summer at the 2001 National Championship 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP). The competition was held at Grand Targhee Ski Resort near Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Twenty-five states entered teams in the event.

Alabama's foursome of Emily Vines, Holly Cordner, Amanda Luker, and Tiler Lamberth saw their weeks and years of preparation pay off during the national competition. As a team, the group earned First Place Overall. In individual competition, Emily Vines earned the overall high individual score and Holly Cordner placed fourth overall. Amanda Luker and Tiler Lamberth were not far behind, with


only nine points separating the four members.

The contest consists of five parts. In part one, team members evaluate a tract of forestland and make written recommendations on how to improve the site for a variety of wildlife species. The recommendations must be based on an evaluation of the contest site and the particular habitat needs of the animals that live there.

In part two of the competition, team members identify a variety of wildlife foods and then complete an answer sheet to show which animals feed on which food categories. Part three involves an evaluation of aerial photographs to determine areas with the most suitable wildlife habitat for the target species.

There is also an oral test where teams justify their placement of the photos. The last two parts are team events in which the team members work together to write wildlife management plans on both rural and urban sites.

Roger Vines of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Joel Glover of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries served as team coaches. Laurie Vines and Debra Lamberth served as team chaperones.

This is the seventh time since 1987 that Coosa County's team won the state event and then participated in the national contest. These teams won two National Championships; three 2nd Place awards, one 3rd Place award, and one 5th Place award. 

God Bless America

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night
With a light from above;
From the mountains,
To the prairies to the oceans
White with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home,
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

National Wild Turkey Federation Offers Assistance Programs

Courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation

Wildlife species depend on quality habitat for their livelihood. Depending on the species and the available food and cover, the way private lands are managed will largely influence the abundance or scarcity of wildlife populations across the country in the future. According to data from the United States Department of Agriculture, nearly 50% of the U.S. (more than 900 million acres) is privately owned cropland, pastureland and rangeland managed by approximately 4.7 million individuals.

What do the numbers mean? The bottom line is that the future of 50% of the wildlife habitat in the U.S. is in the hands of only 2% of its citizens. Trends in crop prices, the demands of a growing human population and land values are factors which affect and will continue to impact how land is managed.

Public programs implemented on private land can dramatically affect how land is used, and the choices ultimately impact wildlife populations in one way or another. For example, the nesting success of waterfowl in the U.S. has increased by at least 22% since 1985 due, in part, to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CRP program pays landowners to establish areas of permanent grass cover and restore wetlands that provide nesting habitat for waterfowl. The establishment of permanent grasslands has also helped increase ring-necked pheasant populations across the Midwest.

While programs like CRP are beneficial, landowners should take advantage of many other programs available through organizations to help the private landowner establish quality habitat. One of the leaders in this area, the National Wild Turkey Federation, has several programs to help private landowners manage their land to benefit wildlife.

Seed Subsidy Program

The Seed Subsidy Program is offered and partially funded through the state Wild Turkey Super Fund and is available in several states. It is designed to help with private land management. Most participating state chapters offer the NWTF Strut and Rut mixes or Turkey Gold Chufa at half the cost of the seed and with free shipping (paid through the Wild Turkey Super fund). This program is only available to NWTF members.

Conservation Seed Program

The Conservation Seed Program provides landowners year-old seed for wildlife plantings. This successful program provided more than 5.5 million pounds of sorghum, wheat, soybeans, corn and sunflower seed in 1999 alone. NWTF members can purchase the seed for only a few dollars per bag. The seed is shipped by the tractor-trailer load and is handled through the state chapter system.



Project HELP

Project HELP (Habitat Enhancement Land Program) is available to NWTF members and nonmembers, and provides seeds and seedlings specifically selected to benefit wild turkeys and other wildlife. Everything from Turkey Gold Chufa and the Strut and Rut mixes to sawtooth oaks and Sweetheart chestnuts are available at competitive prices. To get your free catalog, call 1-800-THE-NWTF.

Wild Turkey Woodlands

Wild Turkey Woodlands recognizes landowners for their efforts to provide good wildlife habitat on their property. Participating landowners receive a large, colorful sign to post on their property and a certificate suitable for framing. This program, however, doesn't just provide recognition; it also offers direct benefits like special rates on seeds and seedlings and periodic updates on new wildlife management techniques.

Get more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation's private land management programs and projects by calling 1-800-THE-NWTF or check out the Federation's web site at www.nwtf.org. You can also contact your state chapter at 256-236-1874.



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HIDDEN



TREASURES

Jim and Jan Witt 2001 Outstanding Conservation Farmers

By COLEEN VANSANT, Information Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Cullman

By embracing and carrying the great responsibility of good natural resource stewardship, Jim and Jan Witt of St. Clair County have proven their commitment to their land and to the values of Alabama's Treasure Forest program. This commitment is what led the Witt's to become St. Clair County's 2001 Outstanding Conservation Farmer.

The Witt's 720-acre farm is located in the scenic Beaver Valley of St. Clair County. The farm has been in Jan's family since the 1840's where it has been handed down from generation to generation. Jan Witt and her children inherited a portion of the land from their father and grandfather, Dr. Willard T. Farmer. Jim and Jan began managing the property around seven years ago when the majority of the original farm was purchased from the other heirs.

Because the property had formerly been used as grazing land for cattle, the edges had been taken over by mixed hardwood and pine stands as well as being high-graded. This left behind poor quality form and species. To help in the management of the land the Witt's contacted a registered consulting forester and the Alabama Forestry Commission to assist them in developing a long-term management objective for the farm. The couple decided to concentrate their efforts on timber and wildlife management.

A plan was developed and goals set in order to realize the management objectives for the family. Many tracts were recognized as needing immediate attention and the remaining property was placed into a long-term forest management plan. Around 100 acres of poorly

managed forested land had to be clearcut and replanted. Several beetle spots were salvaged, wildlife food plots established, roads and stream crossings improved or established, fire lanes built, and property



Jan and Jim Witt (center and right) are shown receiving their TREASURE Forest certificate and sign from Alabama Forestry Commission St. Clair County Forester Derrick Heckman.

lines marked. Of the remaining 500 acres a viable stand of quality hardwood and mixed pine existed.

Although burning had been excluded for a number of years the existence of natural longleaf pine was evident in some of the remaining over story. The decision was made by the Witt family to restore the once dominant longleaf pine.

Prescribed burning plays a very important role in both timber and wildlife management on the Witt farm. After four years of burning a patchwork of timber stands, the final burn was completed this past spring. In the future, the 600 acres of forested land will be on a three-year rotation of burning.

The many miles of roads and fire lanes on the property have allowed for the success of the prescribed burning program. All fire lanes have been maintained to prevent erosion and to provide forage for wildlife.

Some wildlife forage planted included rye grass, clover and wheat.

Aside from the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Witt's also consulted several additional agricultural agencies including Natural Resources Conservation Service, St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and Farm Services. Much of the work was done with cost share and Soil and Water Conservation district monies.

The property supports an abundance of wildlife including deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, beaver, coyote, bobcat, fox, opossum, raccoon, wood ducks and many species of songbirds. This abundance of species is due to the diversity of the farm.

One of the many income sources of the farm is the 120-acre pasture contract that provides high quality coastal and fescue hay for a local cattle farmer. The pasture also provides openings where fertilized pasture grasses add high quality forage for many species of wildlife.

In addition to hay contracts, the family leases hunting rights to a small party of bow hunters. It is very important for the Witt's to be able to interact with the wildlife that exists on their farm. This is one reason why only bow hunting is allowed.

The four ponds on the property provide recreational opportunities for the family, including fishing, picnicking, and

(Continued on page 13)

A Treasured Getaway Close To Home

By **JAMES JENNINGS**, Outreach Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

ROSALIND PEOPLES, Outreach Coordinator, Alabama A&M University

Like many TREASURE Forest landowners, Jerry & Gwendolyn Lacey of Fayette County have a fondness for antiques – antique cars, antique jewelry and, especially, antique furniture. When planning a getaway cabin, their decision to restore a log cabin seemed the natural choice. “We wanted to preserve some history and share it with our grand-kids,” Jerry explained as he showed us around the cabin.

The search for a suitable structure ended nine miles down the road when they found just what they were looking for, a 1860-1880 dogtrot cabin. “The landowner had inherited the land,” said Jerry. “He lived in Texas and was willing to sell me the cabin. I also bought a 1928 house that belonged to his uncle.”

Because Jerry wanted the cabin moved intact they had to remove the porch floor and deteriorated back rooms. Once the cabin was set up, wood from the second log structure was used to reconstruct them.

The classic dogtrot cabin features massive 40-foot-long 10x10 hand-hewn sill logs. Sill logs were placed on stone piers to provide the cabin’s foundation. There are also three 43-foot-long hand-hewn six-inch beams in the roof of the house and wooden pegs throughout.

In the early 1900’s, it was common for homeowners to conceal log walls with lap siding or other materials to reflect a more prosperous lifestyle. The original owner of the Lacey’s cabin once covered its interior and exterior walls with tongue and groove board, possibly for the same reasons.

One of the many challenges of restoring the house was recreating the original stonework, including the chimney, fire-



Stone masons (from the left) Fred Savage, Ed Dover and Eddie McDougle.

place, piers and steps. Jerry called on friends Fred Savage, Ed Dover and Eddie McDougle to recreate historically accurate stonework that met modern fire safety codes.

The three men constructed the chimney from firebrick encased in original stone for an authentic look. To recreate an original appearance, he used dry-stacking

stonework. Although dry-stacking is a very time consuming method, Mr. Savage said “If its worth doing, its worth doing right.”

He also built the steps and piers for the porch using rock gathered from the old home place.

The Lacey’s have completed the exterior work and are now working on the interior. This is in addition to maintaining food plots, three fishponds, burning, clearing, planting and all the endless tasks of forest management. Jerry also works for Beville State Community College and Gwen is a director of the Fayette County Library.

Why do they devote so much time and resources to the log cabin? Shouldn’t they be relaxing and making retirement plans? “It is something we can take care of and leave behind for our grandchildren to enjoy along with the property. It is a way to preserve our history,” Jerry said. Their dream is for their cabin to be a peaceful, private getaway that’s still close to home for themselves; their two children, Jerrilyn and Jerry, their daughter-in-law, Brandi, and their granddaughter, Nadra.

The Lacey’s purchased their land in 1982 but didn’t actively management it until 1997 when

now-retired Fayette County manager George Lowrey invited them to attend the Summit of the South in Richmond, Virginia. The meeting motivated them to invite the AFC to visit the property and prepare a forest management plan. Through extensive forest management, Jerry and Gwen Lacey were awarded TREASURE Forest certification in 1999.



Downsize Your Pine Plantation

Improving your bottom line through thinning

By **BILLY RYE**, President, Forest Management Specialists, Inc., Florence, AL

Down sizing became a household word during the 1990's. Many companies sought to become more profitable by doing away with lower yielding portions of their corporations and by combining efforts of related departments. In the same manner, one of the best forest management techniques a landowner can undertake to increase rate of return is to thin over-crowded pine plantations. Just as major corporations became lean by streamlining their production, you can improve your bottom line by focusing your resources (water, nutrients, and sunlight) on your most productive elements (crop trees). Unlike corporate downsizing, there is very little bad press associated with thinning, as almost all of the impacts on people are positive. It's a win-win situation!

Downsize by thinning

Companies that have undertaken downsizing have experienced improved growth for the portions of the company that were retained. In addition, by selling non-essential portions of the corporation, companies also generate short-term capital. In the same manner, the productivity of the final crop trees is increased and immediate income is generated as a result of thinning. Thinning will also make your timber stand less vulnerable to corporate raiders such as Southern Pine Beetle. Two often-unanticipated spin off benefits of thinning are improved whitetail deer habitat and aesthetics.

During corporate downsizing, departments with a limited life span, productivity limitations, or those ripe for hostile

takeovers are considered red flags for removal. In the same manner, trees that are suppressed have forks or cankers, and those susceptible to pest infestations are prime candidates for removal during thinning operations. By removing the less productive elements of your pine plantation, you will allow the final crop trees to grow at an even greater rate. Just as corporations seek accelerated growth in stock prices, the value of your pine plantation may very well double in 5 years if properly thinned!


Several large corporations experienced successful downsizing efforts during the early 1990's because they had a well-coordinated plan in place. You, too, need a plan if your downsizing efforts are to be successful. Your plan should be prepared by a competent resource profes-

sional with your best interest in mind. By having a written contract, closely monitoring the actual thinning operation, and reviewing the process upon completion, you will implement the same downsizing techniques that made many large corporations what they are today.

Plan Your Strategy

As you plan your downsizing efforts, consider the following trade secrets:

- 1 Select a customized thinning method. For most first time thins, consider a combination 5th row thin and crown thin with a residual basal area of 70 ft/acre. The thin-from-below method should be utilized the 2nd or 3rd time a stand is thinned. The method and intensity of the thinning on your property should be customized to meet your objectives and existing stand conditions.
- 2 Select a reputable, experienced timber purchaser. Remember, the primary purpose of a thin is to set up your pine plantation for future growth in value. Therefore, immediate revenue is secondary to long-term productivity. The selection of a reputable timber purchaser is one of the most important steps in the entire thinning process.
- 3 Consider a “pay-as-cut” contract. Pay-as-cut contracts often yield higher revenues for landowners than those sold lump sum. Under this method of payment, the timber purchaser assumes less risk. However, most of the risk of losing money is shifted from the timber purchaser to you! Therefore, consult with your industry expert before selling timber using this method of payment.
- 4 Don’t limit your contact to paper industries. Some of the highest prices and best jobs of thinning may come from wood dealers and manufacturers of oriented strand board (OSB). Be sure to shop around.
- 5 Collect a performance bond. You or your industry expert should hold a performance bond until the timber purchaser completes the contract to ensure compliance. The amount of the bond is determined primarily by the size of the area to be thinned, ranging in size from 5-10% of the total anticipated value of the timber to be removed.
- 6 Don’t be fooled by high chip-n-saw prices. Chip-n-saw prices are typically 2-3 times greater than those for pulpwood. However, if there are no trees of this size class to be removed or if the purchaser does not separate the products, the price difference is irrelevant.
- 7 Consider rate of return. Remember, the primary purpose of a thin is to increase future value by stimulating the growth of better trees. Unless there is a significant increase in price anticipated within the next year, go ahead and thin. The loss in rate of return due to the slowed growth of crop trees is probably the most underrated thief of productivity.
- 8 Inspect thinning operation. It’s a good idea to inspect the thinning operation on a regular basis to ensure that the proper trees are being removed and the crop trees are being protected. Take pictures of roads and stand density both before and after thinning. These will be beneficial in the case of a dispute and will also serve to document your progress!

By understanding these principles and by using industry professionals with your best interest in mind, you are much more likely to successfully downsize your pine plantation and greatly improve your bottom line. 


Jim and Jan Witt

Continued from page 10

boating. A three-acre crawfish pond also provides a water resource as well as crawfish for the family and friends. .

Because of the rich history of the area and the farm itself, several old buildings have been left on the property. An old home and several outbuildings and barns still stand and some are in use. The Witt’s have taken great efforts to preserve the remnants of what was once an old stagecoach road.

The Witt’s are committed to promoting natural resource education and for several years they have hosted the county forestry judging contest.

Because of their outstanding efforts, the Witt’s have been awarded the distinction of TREASURE Forest. They are the 1,656th TREASURE Forest to be certified in the state. 

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Basic Tools For the Do-It-Yourself Landowner

By TILDA MIMS, Forest Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Tuscaloosa

"Sweat equity" is a term used to describe one's investment of hard work in a project rather than simply money. Habitat for Humanity, for example, uses sweat equity hours as a factor to determine which applicant receives the next low-interest home. The theory, and it is a sound one, is that physical labor demonstrates commitment and commitment instills pride of ownership.

Many Alabama landowners know first-hand the meaning of sweat equity because they've invested many, many hours marking boundaries, planting seedlings and completing other aspects of successful forest management. The purpose of this article is to offer active landowners a little guidance for selecting equipment they can easily use with a little practice.

Before you make any decisions, however, get a written forest management plan. Assistance is available through several government service agencies at no cost. Field agents will help you determine your management goals and advise you on ways to accomplish them.

Once your management plan is in hand, you may want to mark property lines, stand boundaries, trees to be saved,



Jim Jeter, forest management specialist for the Northwest Region, demonstrates an increment borer for a landowner.

trees to be removed, harvest boundaries, hazardous areas, etc. A cruiser compass is a must for this. The once-simple compass is now available in styles that float, record temperatures and even glow in the dark. Some models include a built-in cli-

nometer, protractor, level and safety whistle. A popular choice for a basic compass is the Silva Ranger which sells for around \$45.

To mark boundaries, paint guns and plastic flagging are relatively cheap, easy to use and durable. Plastic flagging is ideal for surveying, orienteering or landscaping. Available in bright solid colors or bright colors with special lettering, most flagging tape is designed to hold up under extreme weather conditions. There is a new biodegradable tape available at a slightly higher cost designed to disintegrate in one year. Price range \$1.60 - \$1.95 per roll.

Small handheld paint guns connect directly to the paint can save time, paint and labor. A lightweight alternative to backpack sprayers, the paint gun is accurate in thick brush, easy to operate and decreases hand fatigue. Both methods are excel-

lent for identifying individual trees for thinning operations.

To plan a cutting operation, the landowner should understand the diameter, height, and growth rate of individual trees and stands. A combination log-

ger's/diameter tape is ideal for use on construction, mill and logging sites. It measures the length of the tree on one side and the diameter of the tree on the other side, and is designed to make direct measurements in one reading. Prices vary depending on tape length from around \$50 for a 50-foot tape to \$75 for a 100-foot tape.

A standard 12-inch increment borer is a useful tool for measuring the growth of your trees. The borer extracts a small (4.3 mm to 5mm) core sampling of the tree that allows you to count the tree's rings. The process does not harm a healthy tree. Average price is \$155.00. Replacement extractors are around \$18.00 and replacement bits are in the \$118.00 range.

Millions of trees are planted each year in Alabama and the landowners plant a substantial number. Successful planters know that seedling roots must be straight in the hole, not twisted, balled or planted in a "J", "U" or excessively "L" shaped manner. The proper tool for hand planting is a dibble bar. A dibble bar is typically a flat, 10 X 3-inch steel blade on a steel bar used to plant pine seedlings. There are also triangular shaped blades for rocky soils and specially designed dibbles for containerized seedlings. Price range \$25-\$55.

Tree planting bags are 12-18" deep bags used to carry seedlings while planting. Some are made of canvas and others are nylon coated with neoprene to reflect heat. They may be worn on a shoulder strap with leg-ties or around the lower back to distribute the weight on the wearer's hips. Price range \$22 - \$27.



A good quality cruiser's compass is a standard tool for forest owners.



A combination loggers-diameter tape easily measures this tree's diameter at 15 1/2 inches.

Commercial pruning is gaining popularity as a means of increasing the amount of clear wood produced by selected trees. Most of the volume of a given tree is in the first sixteen feet, commonly called the butt log. Removing limbs while a tree is young produces more wood free of knots and other blemishes in the butt log, thereby bringing a higher market price. Pruning saws run from \$22 - \$45 or higher depending on the features. Adding a telescoping pole to the saw price will add another \$80 - \$110 to the overall price.

A lightweight, durable backpack sprayer can be used in any application – agriculture, horticulture, lawn and garden, woodlands, orchards and pest control. They feature 3, 4, or 5-gallon tanks with spraying wands. Price range \$90 - \$120. Look for chemical and stress resistant tanks, padded shoulder straps and features to prevent spray from drifting.

Safety should always come first when working outdoors. A hardhat, protective eyewear, tick repellent, snake/brush leggings, sturdy work gloves and boots, a blaze orange cap or vest, and a first aid kit are essential.

By becoming a "hands-on" landowner you will save money, learn more about forest management and be better prepared to make informed decisions about

your forestland. Just remember, Alabama's humidity gives a whole new dimension to the term "sweat equity," so remember to pack a jug of cold water or sports drink each time you head to the woods. 🏠

Forestry Supply Companies

Ben Meadows Company

3589 Broad Street
Atlanta, GA 30341

1-800-241-6401

www.benmeadows.com

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

P.O. Box 8397

Jackson, MS 39284-8397

1-800-647-5368

www.forestry-suppliers.com

Alabama's First Interagency Wildland Fire Academy

By TILDA MIMS, Forest Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Tuscaloosa

More than 140 wildland firefighters attended the first-ever Alabama Interagency Wildland Fire Academy May 11-20, 2001, to train in confronting wildland fires that threaten life and property. The academy was developed by the Jefferson-Shelby Wildland-Urban Interface Advisory Board as part of an educational strategy to train firefighters responsible for initial attack of fires occurring in the wildland-urban interface.

The term wildland/urban interface refers to geographical areas where urban structures – mainly residences – are built close to flammable fuels found naturally in wildland areas. The wildland/urban interface creates two major concerns: careless actions by homeowners increase the risk of wildfires and wildfires pose a greater threat to lives, homes and businesses.

Interagency Training Opportunity

House fires are traditionally controlled by structural firefighters using hoses from water mains and hydrants. Wildland firefighters, on the other hand, are usually charged with protection of homes, woodlands and their natural resources. Now that Alabama's larger cities are expanding into forests, valleys and hill-sides, structural and wildland firefighters often respond cooperatively to house



State Forester Timothy C. Boyce views the cache of tools and clothing in the supply tent.

fires that threaten forested areas and wildland fires that threaten residential areas.

The Academy was the first of its type in Alabama designed for interagency training and cross training. It was especially effective as a networking and team-building tool.

Wildland Firefighting Courses

Firefighters from forest industry, paid and volunteer fire departments, Oak

Mountain State Park, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the U.S. Forest Service and several private individuals trained in basic and advanced wildland firefighting, prescribed burning, medical support for fire crews, and equipment operation in the wildland fire environment. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group certified classes and training standards for S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighting, S-131 Advanced Firefighter Training, S-190 Wildland Fire Behavior, S-205 Wildland-Urban Interface, S-212 Wildland Powersaws



Preparing for a field exercise.

and S-359 Medical Unit Leader. Completion of required certified classes and a physical endurance test qualified individuals to obtain the Red Card Certification required to fight wildfires for the U.S. Forest Service. Coursework for State Prescribed Burn Manager and Dozer/Tractor Operator were also offered.

Incident Command System – The Academy was conducted using the Incident Command System (ICS) with Pelham Fire Chief Gary Waters as Incident Commander. ICS is a highly structured method of rapidly organizing personnel and resources for a specific purpose, typically to coordinate efforts of multiple agencies during an emergency, such as a large wildfire or a tornado. By conducting the event with ICS, participants got practical experience they will use in their careers.

Funding – The academy was funded by a grant from the Alabama Forestry Commission. The Forest Service provided 80 sets of tools and clothing for the trainees and later donated them for use in future academies. Retired federal judge Melford Cleveland generously offered the use of his Shelby County TREASURE Forest, Head-Cleveland Farms, as the site for the school. Gulf States Paper Corporation and John Deere Tractor Company donated funds for barbecue dinners and crawler-tractors for field exercises, and several electricians donat-

ed their labor to bring in electricity for lights and audio-visual equipment.

When in the planning stages, the board estimated a class of 60-65 people. However, when brochures were mailed to volunteer fire departments, municipal fire departments, forest industry, state parks and the Alabama Forestry Commission, the response quickly exceeded the 150 mark. At the conclusion of the event, 145 students had trained in six different classes and 20 received Red Card Certification.

The 2002 academy will be advertised nationwide. For more information on the Alabama Interagency Wildland Fire Academy, contact Harry Kepler, Alabama Forestry Commission, 205-339-0929. 📞



On the job training.



Hot meals were provided each day.

The American Chestnut Tree: Recovery and Reforestation Efforts Underway

By TILDA MIMS, Forest Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Northeast Region



A pure stand of chestnut in Connecticut around the turn of the last century.

The American chestnut tree was once an important part of the forests of eastern North America. In the heart of its range, the central Appalachians, it represented one of every four hardwoods.

The tree's consistently heavy nut crop was the single most important food for a variety of wildlife, and was a significant food for livestock and people. Chestnut wood was highly rot-resistant and used for everything from barn beams to rail-

road ties and fine furniture. Musical instruments used about one-half of the wood, especially pianos and pipe organs.

Once abundant from southern Maine to the Florida panhandle, the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) was the victim of two major attacks. In the early 1800's, Ink Disease entered the U.S. on cork oaks from Portugal. Ink Disease is a root disease that moves through soil, and trees do not recover from Ink Disease.

The disease rapidly eliminated all American chestnut trees in lowland areas along the gulf and eastern seaboard.

A second attack came around 100 years later, when trees in upland areas were destroyed almost to extinction by Chestnut Blight. Today, living, old chestnut trees are very rare. The once majestic tree is now reduced to an understory shrub that dies, sprouts from the base, dies and sprouts again.

Chestnut Blight

The fungus *Cryphonectria* (formerly called *Endothia parasitica*) causes Chestnut Blight. Cankers were found on American chestnut trees lining the avenues of the Bronx Zoo in New York City in 1904. In 1907 and 1908 the fungus was found on other species of chestnut in the New York Botanical Garden. The blight moved at an alarming speed, fifty miles a year, destroying an estimated 9 million acres of trees in less than 50 years.

Chestnut Blight gets into broken branches, growing under the bark until the tree is girdled. The fungus is spread by everything that flies, walks or crawls across the canker and goes to another tree with broken branches. Cankers are usually easily recognized because the thin bark of young trees or sprouts becomes orange where the fungus has grown. Thick bark may have dots of orange but the most telling signs of cankers in such bark are epicormic sprouts that form below the canker when the cambium is killed.

The fungus does not enter the root collar at the base of the tree, so trees sprout back each year, creating a multiple-stemmed shrub. Sprout clumps surviving today are remnants of original trees.

After the blight fungus was discovered in the United States, plant explorer Frank Meyer found it in both Chinese and Japanese trees. He also noted Asian trees were often very resistant to the disease, showing few symptoms when infected. Meyer concluded that Asian trees imported into the U.S. brought the blight with them.

In 1912, the Plant Quarantine Act was passed to reduce the chances of such a catastrophe happening again.

Chestnut Research

The American chestnut was considered a hopeless cause until the late 1950's, when a chestnut recovery phenomenon was discovered and studied by Jean Grente in France. He called the system "hypovirulence," because the chestnut blight fungus he isolated had less than normal ability to kill chestnut trees. As hypovirulent strains spread through chestnut orchards of Italy and France, trees began to live longer, "healing" over blight cankers with lumpy bark tissue.

Scientists place bits of a hypovirulent blight fungus into holes in the bark around cankers, the cankers then stop




Logging American chestnut in New England.

expanding, and the tree's natural defenses protected the tree's living cambium. In 1972, Grente sent hypovirulent cultures to Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis and the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station where testing in the laboratory and greenhouse had encouraging success. Through the breeding program, they have developed fully resistant trees that are mainly American chestnut; the resistance is from a Japanese or Chinese chestnut.

Recovery Efforts in Alabama

Dr. Anagnostakis and Marshall Case, Executive Director of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), presented an American chestnut seminar in Florence this summer at a meeting sponsored by the Lauderdale County chapter of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association. Dr. Anagnostakis reported on her research at the Experiment Station and how Alabama can help. "We will plant our new resistant hybrids into plots in northern Alabama and parts of Tennessee and Georgia, where they will cross with native trees, incorporating the enormous genetic diversity that still exists in the forest," she stated. The first generation offspring will be intermediate in resistance but in subsequent generations, trees with full resistance will be produced.

TACF's approach is to continually cross back to the American parent, not to Asian species. This method, called backcross breeding, is the standard method for transferring a single trait to an otherwise acceptable plant. The goal is to produce fully resistant trees which are fifteen-sixteenths American and one-sixteenth Chinese.

"Alabama could be a very significant player in this effort because of the rich generic diversity in your forests," Case said. The chapter will assist with funding and field testing of resistant trees in the North Alabama area where chestnuts survived the first disease. TACF plans to introduce these trees to the forest by 2010. 

Resources

The American Chestnut Foundation
469 Main Street
Bennington, VT 05201-4044
Chest@acf.org

Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
P.O. Box 1106
New Haven, CT 06504
Sandra.Anagnostakis@po.state.ct.us

Shoals Area Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Chair, Johnnie Everitt
Vice-Chair, Dr. Mitch Burford
Sec, Dorothy Craven
Treas., Steve McEachron
Recording Data Chair, Frank Wiley
Publicity Chair, Joanne Fowler and Judy Tricoli
Science Chair, Dr. Jimmy Maddox
Bylaw Committee Chair, Johnnie Everitt

For information on participating in this restoration project, contact Johnnie Everitt at 256-383-4376

ALABAMA TREASURE FOREST ASSOCIATION

County Chapters

“WE ARE GROWING!”

By PAT BUTLER, ATFA Board of Directors, Northwest Region
CHAD FINCHER, ATFA Forest Mentors Program Coordinator

What is the latest with the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association county chapters? We are GROWING! The number of Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) county chapters has grown significantly over the past year. There are now 42 formed chapters with bylaws and 16 in formation. ATFA chapters have a wide range in membership size. The largest is Pike County with 235 members. We are continuing to empower landowners with the knowledge they need to be good stewards of the land.

Who are members of ATFA chapters?

Most chapters embrace a wide variety of individuals, agencies and groups who bring a spectrum of interests and ideas to the chapter. Many chapters include private landowners (certified TREASURE forest landowners and non-certified forest landowners), stakeholders (individuals with an interest in forest stewardship and the outdoors), special interest groups (Mobile Bay Audubon Society), schools and individual school classes. There are also members representing senior citizen groups, church groups, corporate members, corporate sponsors (Dwight Harrigan Forest Learning Center and the Alabama Farmers Federation), federal, state and local officials, and cities and towns.



ATFA county chapters are involved in a variety of programs designed to help spread the word about responsible forest management.

There is a program to interest every ATFA member. Chapter members offer encouragement and assistance to potential TREASURE Forest landowners. Many chapters are holding informational meetings, both as technical and educational seminars. Guest speakers address topics of interest to forest landowners. Examples of meeting topics include forest economics, forest certification, current forestry

tax laws, wildlife management programs and aesthetics, such as growing wildflowers.

Many chapters hold meetings in the form of landowner tours. They are sharing the message by showing the TREASURE Forest philosophy in action at their own TREASURE Forests around the state.

Another program sponsored by ATFA chapters is “Classroom in the Forest / Forest in the Classroom”.

This unique educational program serves to educate young people about forest stewardship and private forestland ownership. Counties involved with this project include Mobile, Washington, Montgomery and Tallapoosa.

The “Step Outside Program” known as WOW (Women of the Woods) is quickly becoming one of the most popular programs. These are one-day events providing women a chance to experience the great outdoors. Counties involved with this project at present include Mobile, Washington, Montgomery, Tallapoosa, Elmore and Cleburne.

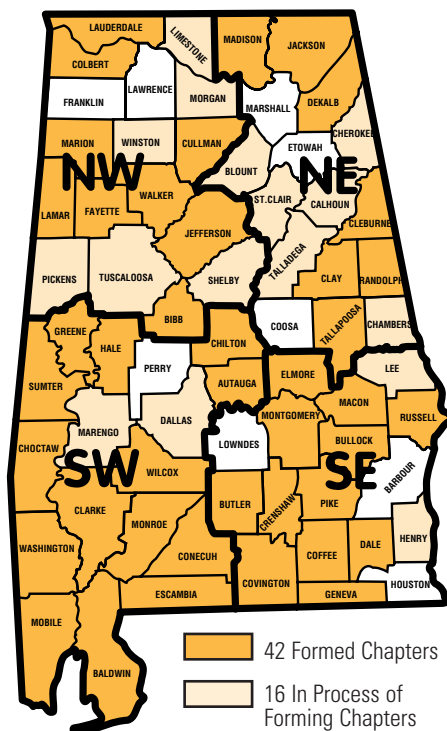
A new type of ATFA program is the formation of charter memberships. The Pike County ATFA chapter is pioneering this new program. Many ATFA chapters are also working with their local forestry planning committees in helping them to administer programs for the county.

An important resource for ATFA chapters is the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors Leadership Training Meetings”. ATFA is

presently administering four meetings per year. These training meetings provide ATFA members the opportunity for quality leadership education. These meetings are located in all areas of the state. The sessions are open to non-members that would like to learn more about the association and to enhance their leadership skills.

“Little Acorn” youth membership offers special member recognition for ATFA youth. Social meetings, many of which include dinner, give members an opportunity to share ideas and time with fellow members. Recognition of a landowner’s forestry accomplishments is another important part of county chapters meetings.

ATFA chapters also help with fundraisers. The silent auction at the Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference is an important fund raising event. Local chapters collect donated items to be sold at the event. Proceeds from the auction help fund the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” leadership training meetings and other ATFA programs. Local county chapters also assist in organizing and holding regional ATFA meetings.



Members of the ATFA county chapters now have a voice from the local level all the way to the national level.

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association played an important part in the formation of the National Network of Forest Landowners (NNFL), which is headquartered at the ATFA office in Mobile. The NNFL is an information network of private forest landowners from various states that share a common goal of forest stewardship. Their main goal is to reach and encourage uninformed forest landowners to be an active participant in sustainable forest management. There were originally eleven states involved; however, additional states are joining weekly.

Join the local ATFA chapter in your county and make a difference in improving the forestlands of our state and nation. This network of landowners and like-minded individuals have discovered they can make a difference by being a part of a growing organization. You can find out more about Alabama TREASURE Forest Association county chapters in your area by visiting the ATFA website at <http://www.atfa.net> or call their headquarters in Mobile toll free at 1-888-240-4694.

Promote and Support the TREASURE Forest Program Join the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association is composed of people who practice TREASURE Forest management, people who encourage others to practice it, and people who believe that management of Alabama’s forestlands according to the TREASURE Forest concept is good for both present and future generations.

Membership in the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association is open to certified TREASURE Forest owners (Full Members), any forest landowner who is not certified (Growing Member), and persons, companies, corporations, or organizations that do not own forestland (Associate Member), but want to support and promote the sustainable and wise use of our forest resource for present and future generations.

Yes, I would like to join the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Check each category and fill in the blanks as appropriate:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is \$20 annual membership fee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growing Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is \$25 annual membership fee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is \$30 annual membership fee |

Primary objective: _____

Secondary objective: _____

**For more information, visit
the ATFA Web site:
www.atfa.net**

Mail to: Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, C/O University of Mobile, P.O. Box 13220, Mobile, AL 36663-0220

For more information about the ATFA contact James Malone, Executive Director, at (251) 442-2424.



ALABAMA'S FORESTRY TEAM PROGRAM

1988 – 2001

By **JIM GOBER**, Chief of Marketing and Economic Development, Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama's forest and wood products industry continues to bolster the state's economy contributing approximately \$14.4 billion in value of product shipments. It is not surprising that the number one manufacturing industry in Alabama is forest products. Alabama's forest products industry both directly and indirectly provides employment for approximately 170,000 people. The forest products industry is an integral part of Alabama's future. The expansion of existing forest industry facilitates economic development in mostly rural communities where the need for new jobs is great. To focus on the opportunities that exist through development of the forestry and wood products industry, we utilize the Forestry TEAM Program.

Purpose and Scope

The Forestry TEAM Program was initially formed to help maintain and expand the forest products industry and in turn ensure the further development of Alabama's economy. Many different state agencies and university-based programs offer assistance to Alabama's existing private industry; however, private industry and the public have a very fragmented familiarity with these services. The primary purpose of the Forestry TEAM is to bring all of these resources under one umbrella to maximize the effectiveness of each agency for the state's forest industry...unique in the United States. To accomplish its tasks, the Forestry TEAM networks with the following cooperators:

the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, the Alabama Forestry Association, the U. S. Forest Service, the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, the Alabama State Docks Department, the Alabama Power Company, the Alabama Electric Cooperative, the North Alabama Industrial Development Association, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and local economic developers.

The Forestry TEAM is involved in the following areas: job creation through new and expanding forest product manufacturing, market expansion and international trade, new product & technology transfer and forest industry worker and management personnel training.

Forestry Team Strategy

In 1991, the Forestry TEAM developed a forest industry development strategy for Alabama. That strategy includes the following points:

- To create jobs by promoting both primary and secondary wood product manufacturing that compliments the existing industry and reduces pressure on Alabama's forest resource.
- To advocate investment in new products and technology that enhances job creation, competitiveness, and assures the viability of Alabama's forest industry.
- To advocate forest product market expansion and foreign trade that creates jobs, improves profitability and the balance of trade for Alabama's economy.
- To advocate rural community economic development through forestry by facilitating strategic planning increased leadership skills, and infrastructure planning.

History and Members

The formation of the Forestry TEAM began in 1988 with discussions led by the Alabama Forestry Commission centered on the need to be more responsive and effective in working with other state agencies. The first major TEAM initiative was a "Reverse Investment Mission" to Alabama by 17 Taiwan furniture companies in April 1988. A follow-up "Alabama Trade / Investment Mission" to Taiwan led by the state forester that included Alabama forest product companies occurred in November 1988. In 1989, the Alabama Forestry Commission assigned a staff forester to work at the Alabama Development Office

FORESTRY TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New and Expanding Industry Development:

- Reverse Investment Mission to Alabama, by (17) Taiwan furniture companies, April 1988.
- Created "Forest Products Development Center", at Auburn University 1989.
- The Forestry TEAM was successful in helping to develop many new and expanding industries in the 1990's including: announcements of over \$200 million in investment and 650 new jobs. The announcements included the following wood product areas: oriented strand board, soft-wood lumber/timbers, laminated veneer lumber, wood fiber composite decking, hardwood flooring, and kitchen cabinets

Technology Transfer and Training:

- Created "Alabama Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology" (ACAWT), at Northwest Shoals Community College, Phil Campbell, Alabama, 1997.
- Held Opportunities & Obstacles: Alabama Wood Product Industry's Future at the Winfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama in September 1998. Twenty-five (25) participants attended the training.
- ACAWT designed equipment training manual and compact disc of McKinney Lumber Company in May 1999. This manual detailed each step in utilizing machinery housed at McKinney Lumber Company.
- First Line Supervision Training course taught by the ACAWT June-July 1999. Twenty-eight (28) participants received training in personnel management and supervision.
- ACAWT developed Manufactured Housing Industry employee entry-level curriculum course.
- Held Cabinet Vision Corporate Training in July 2000. Twenty-five (25) corporate employees received training on the Northwood CNC Router and Cabinet Vision software.
- ACAWT staff attended and presented a display booth of the ACAWT at the Alabama Forestry Association Convention at Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama in September 2000.

International Trade and Market Expansion:

- Alabama Company Assists - 300
- Export Sales Generated - \$ 23,000,000
- Market Studies and Publications:
 - "Alabama Forest Products Industry Directory, 1996"
 - "Export Directory for Alabama Wood Products, 1996"
 - "A Directory of Overseas Trade Shows, 1996"
 - "Export Guide for Alabama Lumber Companies, 1995"
 - "The Caribbean Market for Building Products, 1994"
 - "The European Market for Southern Pine Lumber, 1994"
 - "Directory of European Markets - Southern Pine Lumber, 1994"
 - "The European Market for Southern Yellow Pine, 1991"
 - "Alabama Forest Products Industry Directory, 1990"

Trade Shows and Missions:

- Forest EXPO - Forest Harvesting & Manufacturing Equipment Supply Show, 2001
- International Woodworking Fair, Atlanta, Georgia, 2000
- Southeast U.S.- Korea Committee Meeting, attended by AFC Commissioners, 1999
- "Ideal Home Show", United Kingdom, 1998
- "Expo Mueble Furniture Supply Show", Guadalajara, Mexico, 1994
- Trade Promotion & Market Analysis Mission, Honduras, 1999
- "Interzum Forestry Suppliers Show" Cologne, Germany, 1995
- (5) Sales Missions to Taiwan, Japan, Denmark, Belgium, Mexico, 1994
- "Ligna Wood Technology Show", Hanover, Germany, 1993
- "Alabama Trade/ Investment Mission To Taiwan", attended by State Forester, Alabama International Trade Center, Alabama Development Office, and Alabama Forest Industry, November 1988
- "U.S. Industrial Products Show", in Taipei, Taiwan, attended by Forestry TEAM, 1988

to assist in forest-based economic development projects. In addition, over the past decade the Alabama Forestry Commission has worked with the Alabama International Trade Center at the University of Alabama to promote exports of wood products overseas by working one-on-one with Alabama's forest product companies.

In April 1991, in cooperation with Auburn University, the Alabama Forestry Commission created the Forest Products Development Center for the purpose of providing increased emphasis in the areas of technical information and analytical assistance to facilitate forest-based industrial recruitment and expansion of Alabama's forest industry.

The Forestry TEAM obtained a \$20,000 state grant to develop the Alabama Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology located on the campus of Northwest Shoals Community College in Phil Campbell, Alabama. The center functions to facilitate the growth and development of Alabama's secondary wood processing industries through workforce training and technology transfer. The Alabama Forestry Commission promoted the use of wood by-products for energy by working with the Energy Division of the Alabama Department Economic and Community Affairs to create the Biomass Energy Program for converting from fossil fuels to wood-based fuels. These initiatives and others led to the formalization of the present Forestry TEAM in 1991 with an agreement between the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Development Office, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and the Governor's Office.

Primary Forestry TEAM Members

Alabama Forestry Commission - In cooperation with its partners, the Forestry Commission develops and maintains the necessary forest inventory and forest industry databases utilized by the Forestry TEAM to facilitate forest based economic development. The state agency provides marketing and technical assistance to Alabama's forest products industry.

Alabama Development Office - The Alabama Development Office is the lead

(Continued on page 24)

Governor Announces

CONSERVATION

CELEBRATION

EXPO - 2002

Governor Don Siegelman has announced that Oak Mountain State Park will be the scenic backdrop for *Conservation Celebration Expo*, sure to be the largest all-outdoors recreation show in Alabama. In a gathering at the Governor's Mansion, Siegelman unveiled Alabama's first *Conservation Celebration Expo* to be held September 28-29, 2002. "The *Conservation Celebration Expo* is about celebrating Alabama's outdoors – celebrating our unique and diverse natural resources...celebrating our broad spectrum of environmental partners...celebrating our rich outdoor heritage...and celebrating our abundant outdoor recreational opportunities."


The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is coordinating the *Conservation Celebration Expo* in a manner that showcases the many conservation and environmental groups in the state working together. By design, a broad spectrum of natural resource interests will be a part of the two-day event and will include public and private groups such as agriculture, wildlife, forestry, industry and the environment.

The *Conservation Celebration Expo* will offer highly interactive outdoor experiences for every participant regardless of age, gender, or ability level. Twin themes of "use it wisely" and "use it safely" will be the basis for all hands-on activities, demonstrations and presenta-

tions. Visitors can participate in such activities as paddle sports, fishing, landscaping for wildlife, firearm safety, camping, rock climbing, nature photography, boating safety, and wildlife viewing. No admission will be charged.

Alabama's natural resources provide a variety of benefits: clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, unlimited opportunities for recreation and aesthetic beauty. The economic benefit is valuable as well. Each year residents and non-residents spend over \$3 billion on wildlife-associated recreation in Alabama.

The *Conservation Celebration Expo* encourages enjoyment and wise use of Alabama's natural resources. Conservation Commissioner Riley Boykin Smith believes the event is a great way to involve citizens in environmental protection and conservation efforts. "The *Conservation Celebration Expo* will do as much as any single event to promote an environmental stewardship ethic in the state. Alabama's great outdoors are here for everyone to enjoy. This event will provide an outstanding forum for Alabama conservationists to tell our story and engage every citizen in the outdoors. The beautiful location and hands-on activities will make for an exciting and educational family event."

For more information about the *Conservation Celebration Expo* contact Jim Mullis at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 334-242-3163. 

Alabama's Forestry Team Program

Continued from page 23

state agency for facilitating economic development for the express purpose of creating jobs for the citizens of Alabama. In 1990, the Alabama Forestry Commission loaned a staff forester to the Alabama Development Office to facilitate forest-based economic development by providing technical assistance. The Alabama Development Office eventually hired the staff forester. The forester is a senior project manager whose responsibilities include the creation of jobs through the recruitment of forest-based industry to Alabama.


Forest Products Development Center -

Located on the campus of Auburn University in association with the Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the purpose of the center is to assist the wood products manufacturers in helping maintain the industry's economic health and in facilitating growth in sales, profits, and employment. The Center is engaged directly in industrial recruitment activities aimed at the expansion and development of Alabama's forest industry.

Alabama International Trade Center -

On the campus of the University of Alabama, the Center assists wood product manufacturers in the development of value added exports of Alabama wood products, encourages more companies to participate in the export trade, and fosters the economic expansion of the state's forest industry through exports. Direct, one-on-one assistance includes distributing foreign market information, trade leads, names of overseas buyers and contacts, and hosting foreign visitors to meet with Alabama suppliers.

Alabama Center for Advanced

Woodworking Technology - Located on the campus of the Northwest Shoals Community College, the primary mission of the Center is to facilitate the growth and development of Alabama's secondary wood processing industries. The Center provides training that will help build a modern manufacturing workforce, assisting Alabama companies in becoming internationally competitive, and promoting environmentally sound processing technologies. 

Eggert's Sunflower

By **ALFRED R. SCHOTZ**, Botanist/Ecologist, Alabama Natural Heritage Program

Eggert's sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*) is a tall perennial species that produces distinctive bluish-green foliage accented by showy yellow flowers during late summer and early fall. A strikingly attractive species, the plant reveals its true glory from its ability to colonize large areas, making it one of the most spectacular sunflowers in North America.

Named in honor of Heinrich Karl Daniel Eggert, a German born plant enthusiast, the species was first brought to the attention of botanists from specimens collected near White Bluff in Dickson County, Tennessee, in 1897. Since the species was first observed nearly 105 years ago, it has been observed elsewhere in Tennessee, as well as in adjacent areas of Kentucky and northern Alabama. Doctor Robert Kral has the distinction of being the first to discover Eggert's sunflower in Alabama, finding it during the fall of 1981 within an open hardwood forest in western Blount County. Another 20 years would pass before the species would once again be detected, another in Blount County and most recently, an exceptionally vigorous occurrence in Franklin County.

During pre-settlement times, conditions favorable for *Helianthus eggertii* were relatively widespread across the region but have been greatly reduced to a mere fraction of their original extent, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to federally classify the species



as threatened on May 22, 1997. While locally abundant in portions of its range, the majority of populations are small and vulnerable to extirpation.

Eggert's sunflower is believed to be an early successional species that colonizes shallow soils of open woodlands and barrens. It is intolerant of shade and will eventually disappear in response to natural succession and the lack of soil disturbance. In fact, some soil disturbance is essential to stimulate germination and

maintain proper growing conditions. Drought and fire were the historical ecological processes that maintained the complex of grassy openings, barrens, and open woodlands in which the sunflower prefers. These open habitats were embedded in a matrix of a mixed hardwood forest essentially comprised of various oak and hickory, accented with a scattering of pine and eastern red cedar. However, with the removal of fire from the landscape, these species have gradually invaded and displaced the sunflower throughout much of its current range. Although fire suppression is partially responsible for the rapid disappearance of the species, habitat fragmentation as a result of unplanned development and highway construction are also to blame.

Recovery strategies developed for Eggert's sunflower by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for the enhancement and maintenance of populations through habitat protection, management, and restoration. To remove the species from the endangered species list, it is important to secure viable populations across its range. This can be accomplished through cooperative efforts among private landowners, government agencies, and conservation groups. ♣

For additional information, contact the Alabama Natural Heritage Program, Huntingdon College, Massey hall, 1500 East Fairview Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36106.

Alabama Forestry Camp 2001

By DANA McREYNOLDS, Outreach Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission, Northeast Region



Forest measurements.

The 2001 edition of Alabama Forestry Camp was a success this year with approximately 27 students from 17 Alabama counties attending and participating in the weeklong experience of learning about Alabama's forest resources.

Camp was held June 3 - June 8, and marked the fifth year of it being held at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives facility near Epes in Sumter County. The students came from many different locations ranging from the oak-hickory mountain region of the north to the black-belt flat terrain of the south. There were students from urban, metropolitan and rural areas.

From the 17 counties, 11 had at least one student present at camp. Those counties were Calhoun, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Jackson, Lowndes, Marengo, St. Clair, Talladega, Walker and Wilcox. Madison, Montgomery and Tallapoosa had two students each, Greene and

Macon had three students each and Perry had four.

Alabama Forestry Camp is a wonderful experience for high school students. Classroom sessions and field activities are designed to introduce students to all aspects of Alabama's vast natural resources while at the same time highlighting career opportunities in the natural science field. There are also after-hours activities and recreation.

Activities Begin

This year's camp began with a tour of Howell Heflin Lock and Dam in Gainesville, Alabama. The lock and dam illustrated how important our waterways are in transporting Alabama's natural resources to other areas in the Southeast. The lock and dam regulates the flow of traffic on the Tombigbee River. The students were fortunate enough to view an

actual barge passing through the lock and dam.

The following day was spent at the Gulf States Paper Corp., Westervelt Lodge in Pickens County. The students learned basic management skills and forestry techniques. During the session on forest measurements, the students were taught to use forestry instruments such as the diameter tape and the Biltmore stick to measure merchantable trees. For many students, this activity was especially fun because they gained practical knowledge by physically participating in the field activities.

Each year, the most anticipated day of camp is the day they go fishing. There were several students that had never been fishing, but amateurs as well as experienced were excited about catching fish. The campers went fishing at the Charles A. Farquhar State Cattle Ranch in Greensboro and caught enough fish for a fish fry the next day.

One of the most important evenings at camp is College and Career Night. Students got the opportunity to interact with college recruiters and state and federal agency representatives regarding course studies, scholarships, and job and training opportunities. Later in the week students were taken on a tour of the University of West Alabama.

From Sawmills to Indians

If the students wanted to learn how pine trees are converted into timber products, they had that opportunity when they toured Gulf States Sawmill. Gulf States Wood Products Division illustrated how logs are debarked, measured, cut, sorted, stacked and stored using the latest and most sophisticated technology. With the assistance of a tour guide, they had the opportunity to see the sawmill in action from beginning to end.

To understand forestry practices from the Native Americans' perspective, campers visited Moundville Archeological Park to learn forest history. Dorie Stinnett from the U.S. Forest Service gave a presentation describing the physical makeup of American forests and explaining Americans' attitude about them, beginning with the pre-Columbus years and ending with today.

Students also participated in other training sessions during the week including: compass and map reading, hunting and gun safety, and land and wildlife management.

Special guests visited the camp to inform students about important issues such as career opportunities and personal goals. Sumter County Commissioner Chris Spencer and Epes Police Chief Darren Blakely gave motivational speeches to encourage campers to follow their dreams and accomplish their goals.

The Final Day


How can the Alabama Forestry Camp end without having a TREASURE Forest day? During this session, the students visited a TREASURE Forest to experience the importance of land stewardship. Smith & Sons TREASURE Forest in Greene



Fishing is a favorite with everyone.

County, told how they practiced good stewardship of the land by diversifying their management objectives to include timber, wildlife and catfish ponds.

The graduation ceremony, held in the auditorium at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, acknowledged the students' completion of camp. Each student received a certificate and a photograph taken with guest speaker, James Gooder of the U. S. Forest Service.

Alabama Forestry Camp is free to anyone who qualifies to attend. They must be an Alabama high school student from the age of 15 to 18, who have completed their freshman year but have not graduated from high school. If you know someone interested in attending Alabama Forestry Camp, have him or her call any county office of the Alabama Forestry Commission for more information. 

Memorial

Mrs. Ruby G. Story of Cullman died Thursday, August 16 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was 88. Her family property was certified as TREASURE Forest # 1,184 in 1996. She was managing her 612 acres for timber and wildlife.


Mrs. Story dedicated her life to being a homemaker. Two sons, Bobby M. Story of Orange Beach and Ricky Story of Cullman; two daughters, Betty S. White and Sandra S. Wright both of Cullman; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren survive her.



Pitcher Plants in Alabama

By **FRED NATION**, Educator, Baldwin County

The white-topped pitcher plant ranks among the world's most beautiful plants.



A healthy pitcher plant bog is a stunning site, filled with dramatic shapes and intense colors that are equaled by very few natural habitats. Seven of the eight southeastern pitcher plant species, all in the genus *Sarracenia*, are native to Alabama.

Our pitcher plant populations are steadily declining, due to over-collection of native stocks, fire suppression, and habitat loss. Much of the bog and savanna acreage in Alabama has been drained or filled over the years, to convert the land to more productive uses. Habitat loss has become critical in coastal areas, where urbanization and population pressures are rapidly increasing.

Pitcher plants are rather habitat-specific. Except for minor differences, mainly in soil moisture, their environmental requirements are similar, and several *Sarracenia* species can often be found growing in the same area. They are occasionally seen in wet ditches and other non-salty, moist sunny areas, but the vast majority are found in porous, infertile, strongly acidic soils with a high water table. These areas are commonly referred-to as pitcher plant bogs or savannas. Some of these habitats are very large, particularly in the coastal counties, where historically they covered thousands of acres. More frequently, pitcher plant bogs occur as small pockets or enclaves in our fire-dependent pine ecosystems.

This rare pink natural hybrid is from a bog in north Mobile County.

Carnivorism is an interesting strategy that pitcher plants have developed to permit them to thrive in conditions where soil nutrients are very poor. Pitcher plants are true carnivores. They capture and consume animals, mostly insects, with an occasional small frog or toad, to supplement the low soil fertility in their native habitats.

The leaves of *Sarracenias* are highly modified into “catch tubes.” Most species secrete attractive scents, and insect prey are probably also attracted by the odor from the decaying bodies of previously captured victims. Upper interior surfaces of the catch-tubes are waxy and smooth, with stiff, downward-pointing hairs farther down in most species. Once insects are inside the tube, the climb back out is very difficult. Most eventually fall into a pool of liquid at the bottom of the pitcher that contains enzymes and bacteria to hasten the decomposition process. Minerals and nutrients from decomposed prey are directly absorbed by the pitcher plants.

Fire suppression has contributed greatly to the decline in our pitcher plant populations. Without periodic burns, aggressive mid-story species, such as catbriers, gall berry hollies, and bayberries quickly overwhelm and shade out the smaller helophytic (sun-loving) pitcher plants. Good forest management practices, particularly controlled-burn regimes that include pitcher plant bogs and savannas, can be very beneficial to the continued survival of our declining pitcher plant populations in Alabama. 🏠

Fred Nation is a freelance writer and photographer from Baldwin County. He teaches classes on native plants and habitats for Weeks Bay Reserve and Faulkner State Community College. Fred has nominated or co-nominated seventeen Alabama State Champion Trees.



One humorous folk name for the purple pitcher plant is “frog britches!”



Over collection and habitat loss have made the yellow trumpet rare in Alabama.

Alabama’s Pitcher Plants

Green Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia oreophila*) has yellow flowers and tubes of pale green, often with red veination. It is the most rare of the *Sarracenias* and on the verge of extinction. It is federally protected under the *Endangered Species Act*. Its range is very limited, with only 31 of its 34 known remaining populations in northeastern Alabama.

Parrot Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*) has dark red flowers. It has relatively small pitchers, usually 6” or less and they often lie on the ground. Its tips are spherical. Its occurrence is relatively frequent and it grows in a bit wetter environment than most. Its range in Alabama is the southern tier of counties

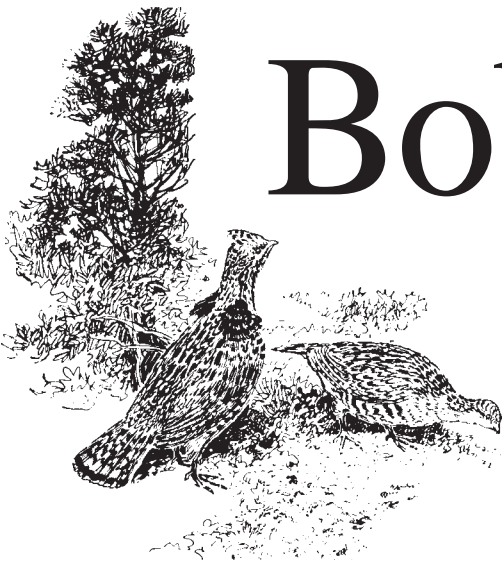
Purple Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) has flowers and pitchers variable, dark red to green. The tubes are stout, short and most are horizontal, with “collars” instead of lids. It is relatively frequent, with the largest area of any *Sarracenia*, reaching into Canada. Its range in Alabama is the southern half of the state.

Sweet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia rubra*) has maroon flowers, often tinged with green. The flowers are many times taller than the pitchers. The lid of the plant sometimes points upward. It is the smallest of the upright species and it is botanically confusing, with a complex of subspecies. It is rare or uncommon throughout its range that, in Alabama, is the extreme southern portion of the state. Most subspecies are considered endangered.

White-topped Pitcher Plant, or Crimson Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) has dark red flowers. The pitchers are white near the top, with prominent red or green veins. The lid is wavy or undulate. It is widely held to be the most beautiful pitcher plant on Earth. Though still relatively frequent in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, populations are rapidly declining throughout. In Alabama the range is across the extreme southern part of the state.

Winged Pitcher Plant, or Pale Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia alata*) has yellow, sometimes nearly white flowers. Pitchers and persistent flower parts are pale green, often diffused with deep red. It is more tolerant of heavy soils than most species. Good populations remain in Mobile County. Range in Alabama is limited to the southwest corner of the state.

Yellow Trumpet, or Biscuit Flower, (*Sarracenia flava*) has yellow flowers. Trumpets are pale green, often with fine red veination, and a dark red patch in the hinge just below the lid. Range in Alabama is Baldwin County eastward across the extreme southern portion of the state. It has become very rare.

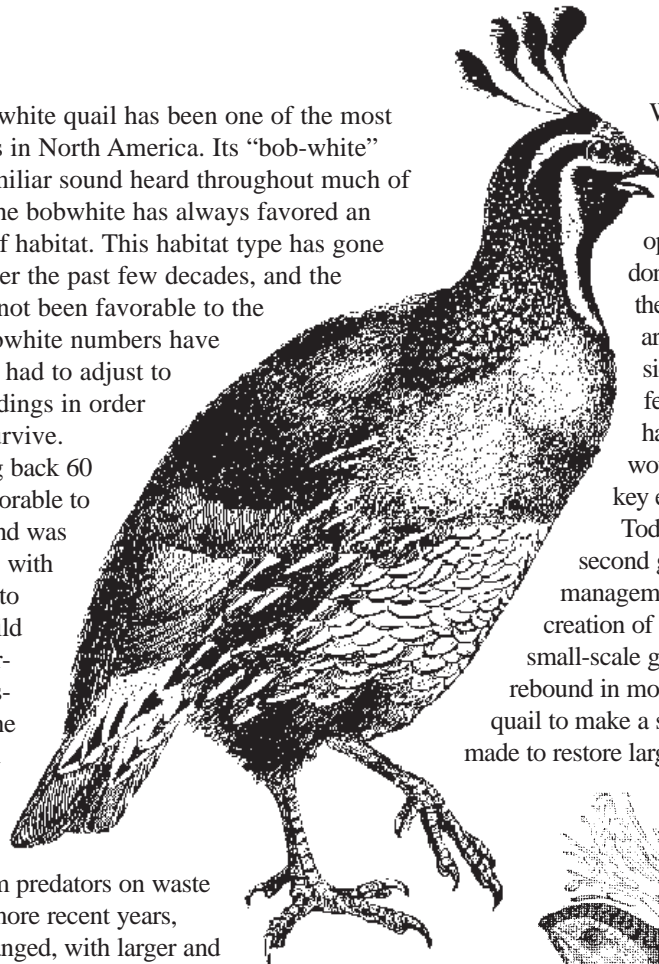


Bobwhite Quail Habitat: PAST AND PRESENT

By **DEREK F. DANNER**, Biologist Aide I, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

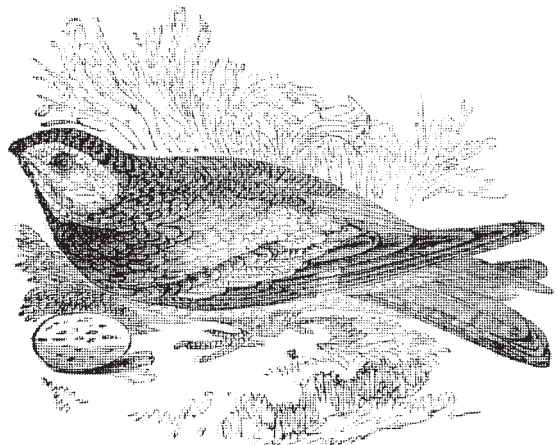
For decades the bobwhite quail has been one of the most popular game birds in North America. Its “bob-white” call was once a familiar sound heard throughout much of our nation’s farmlands. The bobwhite has always favored an early successional stage of habitat. This habitat type has gone through many changes over the past few decades, and the subsequent habitats have not been favorable to the bobwhite. As a result, bobwhite numbers have declined, and the bird has had to adjust to its ever-changing surroundings in order to find what it needs to survive.

Farming practices dating back 60 years were much more favorable to the bobwhite quail. The land was broken up into small fields with hedges and fencerows left to grow up in a mixture of wild vegetation. These areas surrounding the crops and pastures created diversity in the land, which provided good bobwhite quail habitat. This habitat provided the quail with cover for nesting and protection from predators on waste grain left in the fields. In more recent years, farming practices have changed, with larger and more advanced machinery and the use of pesticides and herbicides. The small farms of yesterday were enlarged and farmers began to grow and produce their crops in larger fields with fewer borders. The chemicals enabled farmers to keep their field edges and fencerows clear of any natural vegetation that normally grew in these areas. The bobwhite’s habitat changed drastically and the diversity of plant life decreased.



With this decline in habitat the birds become more limited in areas that could provide their basic needs to survive and reproduce. They found a substitute within clearcuts leftover from logging operations. Once these cutover areas were abandoned, they produced a variety of plant life that met the needs of the bobwhite quail. If these cut areas are left unmanaged they grow into a higher successional stage of plant life that bobwhites do not prefer. The cutovers must be managed to keep the habitat in early stages of plant succession, which would provide herbaceous and shrub species that are key elements in good quail habitat.

Today, the bobwhite quail can still be found in the second growth of clearcuts. With the use of wildlife management techniques such as controlled burning, the creation of cover strips and field borders and the use of small-scale grain fields, the bobwhite quail may begin to rebound in more traditional habitat types. For the bobwhite quail to make a significant comeback, a concerted effort must be made to restore large quantities of early successional habitat. ♣





New TREASURE Forests Certified

Congratulations to the 81 landowners who were awarded TREASURE Forest certification during the September meeting of the TREASURE Forest Sub-committee. With these landowners, 63,434 acres were added to the TREASURE Forest Program in Alabama. Approximately 94 landowners received re-certification.

Currently Alabama has 1,680 TREASURE Forests and 1,776,985 acres of forestland being managed under the guidelines of the TREASURE Forest program.

Landowner	Location Of Property	Region
Robert Abney	Cleburne	NE
Betty Alford and Sally Hobbs	Pickens	NW
Donald Ashley	Cleburne	NE
Mr. and Mrs. Sam J. Albritton, Jr.	Wilcox	SW
Milton G. Avery	Perry	SW
Earl and Phyllis Bailey	Bibb	NW
Doug and Nancy Ballard, Jr.	Shelby	NW
David Baughman	Pickens	NW
Baxley Farm; c/o Dr. Lee Van Carroll	Henry	SE
Dwayne Beckett	Coosa	NE
Boy Scouts of America (Camp Jack Wright)	Jefferson	NW
Thomas K. and Hutton P. Brantley	Henry	SE
Bridges Properties, TIC; c/o James E. Bridge, III	Macon	SE
L. V. Brown	Pickens	NW
Gary B. Butler	Marengo	SW
Calebee Creek Farm; c/o Jim W. Benefield, DVM	Macon	SE
John A. Capps	Lee	SE
The Three C's; c/o John Capps	Russell	SE
Jena Carpenter	Houston	SE
Bert and Pam Carroll	Russell, Barbour	SE
Richard Carroll	Bullock	SE
Jerry, Rhetha, and Shane Cobb	Houston	SE
Mrs. Glover Colvin; c/o Thagard Colvin	Covington	SE
Bruce Coshatt	Shelby	NW
Claude E. Edwards, Jr.	Escambia	SW
Espy-Cheatham Farm	Henry	SE
J. H. Flack Timberlands	Coffee, Pike, Barbour	SE
J. H. Flack Unitrust	Coffee, Crenshaw, Pike, Dale, Geneva	SE
Harold and Nancy Friday	Blount	NE
Great Southern Outdoors	Bullock	SE
Steve Green	Marion	NW
D. P. Haney	Coffee, Pike, Crenshaw, Houston, Dale	SE
Hanoba Land Company, Inc.; c/o Earlon C. McWhorter	Macon	SE
David Hewitt	Randolph, Cleburne	NE
Ron and Teresa Hill	St. Clair	NE
Hoomes Family Property	Escambia	SW
Mary Hope	Marengo	SW
Michael and Joy James	St. Clair	NE
Kelley Farms	Barbour	SE

Landowner	Location Of Property	Region
Stephen Kirkland	Colbert	NW
Jim and Jeanene Knighten	Houston	SE
William J. Lambard	Clarke	SW
John Landers	Lawrence	NW
Rufus E. Lee	Henry	SE
Little River Farms	Bibb	NW
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lowe Family Hunting Lodge	Marion, Winston	NW
Ricky and Emily Mann	Coosa	NE
Joe and Nelda Martin	Clay, Tallapoosa	NE
W. J. Martin, Jr.	Monroe	SW
William Martinson	Henry	SE
Buddy and Estelle Marsh	Coffee	SE
Mathis Creek Farm	Walker	NW
Patrick O. Matkin	Morgan	NW
Maughn Family Farm	Pickens	NW
Robert and Nancy McClendon	Lee	SE
Richard W. McGinnis	Randolph	NE
Al Miller	Coffee	SE
Richard W. Montgomery	Lawrence	NW
Old Spring Hill Plantation	Barbour	SE
John H. and Regina Osborn	Clay, Tallapoosa	NE
James L. Overstreet	Washington	SW
David and Aucie Overton	Winston	NW
Reginald Parmer	Henry	SE
James and Betty Payne	Coosa	NW
Vennie Payne	St. Clair	NE
William and Martha Persons	Russell	SE
Pin Oak Hunting Preserve	Barbour	SE
Sammy and Janice Prim	Houston	SE
Rex Pritchett, Jr.	Bullock	SE
Wayne and Nancy Raia	Shelby	NW
Robert and Carol Revel	Dale, Coffee	SE
Michael C. Roberson	Lauderdale	NW
Carter Sanders	Pike	SE
Mike Stephenson	Coffee	SE
Kem and Katrina Walker	Randolph	NW
Chris Wallace	Franklin, Colbert	NW
Clark and Melany Weeks	Marion, Fayette	NW
Mike and Ann Williams	Escambia	SW
Bruce Wilson	Walker	NW
Dr. Thomas and Jeanne Yancey	Macon	SE
Jeffery H. and Lisa Y. Luker Young	Wilcox	SW

Mimosa

By **COLEEN VANSANT**, Information Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Cullman

Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), also known as silk tree, pink acacia or silky acacia, is an ornamental tree that was introduced to England in 1745 from Persia and China. Andre Michaux introduced the tree into the United States at the end of the eighteenth century. The mimosa quickly adapted to this country and now grows wild in the eastern United States.

This tree is small to size and is in the pea family (*Fabaceae*). The mimosa can grow up to 20 to 40 feet tall. It is broad spreading with a rounded, mushroom crown. Growth rate is fast, three feet or more per year is not unusual. The bark is light brown, nearly smooth, and generally thin with lens shaped areas along the stem. Leaves on the mimosa are fern-like and finely divided, 5-8 inches long by about 3-4 inches wide, and alternate along the stems.

The beautiful pom-pom like showy flowers are about 1-1/2 inches long and can range in color from almost white to bright deep pink. They are arranged in panicles on the end of the branch. Flowering is profuse in late May and June and occurs sporadically on various trees throughout July and August. Each year during the summer, Alabama's roadways are painted with the beautiful display of the flowering mimosa.

Fruits are flat, straw-colored pods



about 6 inches long containing light brown oval-shaped seeds about 1/2 inch in length. Pods ripen in August to September and begin to disintegrate soon after, but remain on the trees into winter. Mimosa reproduces both vegetatively and by seed. Its seeds have impermeable seed coats that allow them to remain dormant for many years. One study showed that 90 percent of the seeds were viable after five years and, for another species of mimosa, a third of its seeds germinated after 50 years in open storage. Seeds are mostly dispersed below or around the

parent plant, but can be dispersed further by water. Mimosa grows rapidly under good conditions but is short-lived and has weak, brittle wood.

Mimosa takes advantage of disturbed areas, often spreading by seed from nearby ornamentals or from contaminated fill dirt. It prefers full sun and is often seen along roadsides and open vacant lots. The mimosa can tolerate partial shade but is seldom found in forests with full canopy cover, or at high elevations (above 3,000 ft.) It is capable of growing in a wide range of soil conditions. Mimosa is a producer of large seed crops and it will re-sprout when damaged. This tree is a strong competitor to native trees and shrubs in open areas or forest edges. Dense stands of mimosa severely reduce the sunlight and nutrients available for other plants.

The tree has no economic value as a forest tree but is used as an ornamental because of its flowers. Some species are used for bonsai and it is a favorite with children as a climbing tree.

The Alabama State Champion Mimosa is located in Tuscaloosa County. Its circumference is 145 inches, it stands 55 ft. tall, and it has a crown spread of 78 ft. for a total point value of 219.5. The National Champion is located in Orlando, Florida. This tree has a circumference of 179 inches, it is 56 ft. tall, and has a crown spread of 74 ft. Its total point value is 254. 🌳



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