

ALABAMA'S
TREASURED
FORESTS

SUMMER 2001

Alabama's State Soil
Selling Timber While the Market Is Down
Basic Forest Measurements
National Network Formed to Assist Landowners



DON SIEGELMAN
Governor, State of Alabama



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

Providing Alabama's citizens with emergency services is one of my top priorities. This is why I was glad to provide \$100,000 in funding to purchase three collapsible water buckets to be used in firefighting. Training for the helicopter pilots who will operate the buckets was also funded.

The addition of these 760-gallon water buckets to Alabama's fire protection program will not only protect human lives but will also provide protection to one of the state's most valuable natural resources—its forests. Three agencies are responsible for coordinating the use of the water buckets: the Alabama Army National Guard, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Our state has the second largest commercial forest in the nation with nearly 22 million acres of forest growing over 15 billion trees. Timber is the dominant crop in 34 counties and is the foundation for the state's number one manufacturing industry, forest products. This industry annually contributes over \$9 billion to the state's economy and directly provides 72,000 jobs. Combined with another 110,000 people indirectly employed by the industry, this represents approximately 10 percent of Alabama's total work force. The forest products industry's annual payroll is around \$1.9 billion. An out-of-control fire situation could be catastrophic to our state not only because of the lost timber resource, but also because of the economic effects it could have.

In 2000, Alabama had over 6,500 wildfires that burned approximately 89,000 acres. The face of firefighting has changed in our state. Wildfires no longer occur in just the far reaches of our rural communities. Our woodlands and urban areas have begun to merge as more people build homes in forested areas. Years ago, wildfires seldom threatened homes or other structures. Today this is a much more common occurrence. With this increase in fire occurrence comes a much greater responsibility in providing efficient and effective fire protection.

The state's volunteer firefighters are invaluable to the efforts of protecting homes and forestland in the rural areas. The addition of the water buckets will provide another tool to aid all the state's wildland firefighters. The partnership and cooperative efforts in making use of these water buckets will be important to the security of our citizens and protection of our forest resources for many years to come.

I was saddened recently to learn of the death of W. Kelly Mosley, Alabama's first TREASURE Forest landowner. After a 40-year career with Southern Bell Telephone Company, Mosley retired in 1963 and made his Marengo County property a retreat for him and his family. Although he lived in Atlanta, he visited the property, which had been in his family since 1904, once or twice a month as long as his health allowed.

Through his contacts at Auburn University, his alma mater, he began actively managing the property he called "Pineland." He worked closely with Extension Forester Larkin Wade to draft a management plan that would provide for demonstration areas so the knowledge gained could be shared with other landowners. Mosley's property became TREASURE Forest #1 in 1976. He was 73 years old at that time!

It was only fitting that the first landowner featured in the first issue of this magazine was Kelly Mosley. This was in the fall of 1982. An update on Pineland was published in the magazine's summer 1989 issue.

Mosley was an encourager of other landowners and wanted to share his management successes with them. He also provided financially for the recognition of others who were doing their part to improve the environment. Gifts by Kelly Mosley allow for two awards programs that continue to this day. The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award is named after Kelly Mosley's first wife and has honored outstanding TREASURE Forest landowners since 1978. The W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Awards for Achievements in Forestry, Wildlife and Related Resources are presented to those who contribute significantly to the wise use of natural resources and the environment. Grants are given to advance knowledge and development of natural resources.

In a 1989 letter to then State Forester C.W. Moody, Kelly Mosley made this statement:

"It has always been a source of satisfaction to me to know that I could do something to help improve forestry conservation in the state of Alabama. It has been such a real joy, taking advice of many people, to bring Pineland to where it has become such a showplace. I hope I can do some of the things that will encourage others to develop their places also."

You can read more about Kelly Mosley's achievements on page 16. He certainly left a legacy that will not be forgotten.

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- USDA-Forest Service, Southern Region, State and Private Forestry
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

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COVER: Despite a recent slump in demand, Alabama timber growers supported the third largest timber harvest on record during 2000. Read more about the value of Alabama's timber harvest on pages 12-13. Pictured is Alabama Forestry Commission Forester Paul Wingard evaluating a stand of timber on the property of Wilcox County TREASURE Forest landowner Jake Harper. Photo by Kim Nix.

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The Shaws of Coosa County

“You can’t explain it ... You have to experience it.”

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

According to Raymond and Sara Shaw of Coosa County, nurturing their 640-acre TREASURE Forest has been comparable to raising a child. It takes a lot of effort. Effort that can drain you physically, emotionally and financially; but according to them the benefits are so great you’re willing to do it.

“We didn’t know it would take this much effort to manage a farm,” explains Raymond. “But we also didn’t know the benefits. I don’t know of anything we have done in our lives other than raise our family that we are prouder of or receive more benefit from. You can’t explain it so that people can understand. You have to experience it.”

Weekend Retreat Turns Into More

When Raymond retired from the computer business in the early 1980s, the couple looked to the family farm as a weekend retreat to get away from Birmingham. But after retirement the couple found they stayed there more and more and enjoyed the rural setting so

much that they decided to take up permanent residence. The couple says it was their real love for the land that persuaded them to move to the farm full time.

They began work on a 100-acre tract that had been in Raymond’s family since the area was first settled. Because of a Southern pine beetle outbreak years earlier, Raymond’s mother had cut all of the pine timber. According to Raymond there was “nothing there.” The land had not been farmed in around 75 years.

They moved to the property with the intention of cattle farming. Their first job was to develop the land into pastures. After six to eight years of raising cows they decided that it was much too expensive to develop pasture and care for cattle. The couple wanted something that was good for the land and beneficial to them as well. After careful studying and research of many farm commodities they finally decided on planting their land in trees. “I looked at the economics of forestry and it was really the only commodity I had a choice in,” laughs Raymond. “Forestry does offer some promise of economic return.”

During this time the couple’s landholdings greatly increased. In 1989 they acquired a 120-acre tract just a short distance from their farm, and in 1991 bought approximately 420 acres of land also down the road from their original 100. All of this land had once been in Raymond’s family so it meant a lot to him to finally acquire it.

Making Improvements

Between 1989 and 1995 the couple planted approximately 280,000 pine trees and put in over 10 miles of firelanes and roads on their property. On the 120 acres purchased in 1991 they have planted 55 acres of pines and established five food plots. On the 420 acres they acquired in 1991 there are 16 food plots and around 5 miles of roads and firelanes.

According to Raymond, keeping a road and firelane system has been one of the greatest challenges they have faced, especially in hilly terrain. They all have to be planted and bush-hogged during the year. Raymond laughs as he tells about how they have tried just about everything on their farm. They have had



The Shaws have over 10 miles of roads and firelanes on their property.



Sara and Raymond Shaw.



A beautiful pond graces the grounds and provides fishing for family and friends.

many successes a few failures along the way. For instance, one practice or technique may work on one place but not be suitable for another, but they have learned from and enjoyed every minute of the experience.

Although the couple's objectives are timber and wildlife, aesthetics and recreation have become very important to them over the years, especially on the 100-acre tract they now call home. "Being out here on the land in the natural surroundings you just want to make things as pretty as you can," explains Sara. "We love to see the delight on people's faces when they come to the farm the first time."

Over the years they have planted over 250 ornamental trees, 3,000 shrubs, thousands of various bulbs, installed two miles of irrigation, and established a fishing pond. Included in the 100-acre tract is 40 acres of coastal Bermuda pasture and a 50-acre tract of hardwood. When completed, over 40,000 different items will have been planted. All of this has been done for the enjoyment of their family and friends. The couple has five children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. For them, seeing their family enjoy horseback riding, riding four-wheelers, fishing and hiking makes all of the hard work worth it.

They laugh together when they say the beauty that surrounds their home was the result of them reaping the benefits of

Continued on page 6



Sara Shaw, Alabama Forestry Commission Forester Blake Kelley, Raymond Shaw, and Joel Glover with the Department of Conservation.

their youngest son's education. Paul was attending Auburn University studying landscape architecture in 1984 when he used the farm as the basis for his fifth year thesis. The 40 acres of landscaping around their home is just the implementation of his plan.

Because of their outstanding forest management accomplishments, the Shaws were certified as TREASURE Forest #1,101 in 1995. Sara explains how the two of them got involved in the TREASURE Forest Program. In 1991 she, Raymond and their two sons, Robert and Paul, were planning to travel to Eufaula to attend their first Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. At the last minute Robert and Raymond had conflicts and could not attend. Paul flew in from Dallas and the two of them attended the conference. We were "hooked on it" Sara explains. "We were surprised and encouraged." Since 1991 the Shaws have not missed a conference and are not only members of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association but their local forestry planning committee. She says their association with other landowners and seeing what they are accomplishing helps them with their plans. "It feeds on itself." Sara says that everywhere they go they set some inspiration from seeing the accomplishments of a fellow landowner. "That makes me want to come home and do something else."



Thousands of bushes and shrubs have been planted on the farm.

Education a Priority

As characteristic of all TREASURE Forest owners, the Shaws love to share their beautiful property with others. The couple feels that it is very important for landowners to participate in education programs, especially the education of children. "As forest owners if we don't get the right message out then the wrong message will be out," explains Raymond. The couple participates annually in Adopt-A-School by hosting all Coosa County fifth graders for an outdoor classroom. Assisted by the Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee, the daylong event includes stops like tree identification, soils, wildlife, forest management, and water quality. Stations are set up and the children rotate to each

segment. Afterwards, the couple cooks hot dogs for the group.

They have also hosted several adult groups including the county planning committee's TREASURE Forest field day and the local master gardeners group. The couple says they enjoy having people visit their property, especially children. In the past Sara has hosted her class reunion and their grandson from Birmingham once brought 17 of his friends to spend a few days.

Accomplishments Earn Honors

Over the past few years the Shaws have made tremendous accomplishments in managing their farm. In 2000 these accomplishments earned them the honor of Helene Mosley winner in the northeast region of the state. Raymond stresses that their success would not have been possible without the help of many others, especially the natural resource agencies that have assisted him throughout the years. "The Forestry, Conservation and Extension people have been a tremendous help," he explains. "I can't praise them enough." He adds that they "take you by the hand" and "steer you in the right direction." When he first began consulting the various natural resource agencies he was very surprised that he received the kind of service he did from a government agency. Everyone returned his phone calls, showed up when they said they were going to, and were very easy to work with. Aside from the professional advice the most remarkable thing to him was that they were so encouraging and "genuinely interested in helping you get things done."

For the Shaws, no job is ever complete. They have plans to build a larger lake and they are looking forward to the time in a few years when their land is ready for prescribed burning and thinning. As if they didn't have enough to do, they are hoping to acquire more land to tie their three pieces together. "We've got other plans and more things we want to do," Raymond adds.

In the mean time, the couple plans to enjoy every moment in the beautiful Eden they have helped create. "I feel so fortunate we'll spend the rest of our lives in these surroundings," Sara adds. "It's just a paradise to us." ❀

Basic Forest Measurements

By **TIM ALBRITTON**, Forest Operations Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

If you have ever discussed forestry with a forester, most likely he or she used more measurement terms and phrases than you wanted to hear. To a forester terms like basal area, board feet, chains, cords, d.b.h., live crown ratio, and others are just part of the forestry language. Don't blame the foresters; they had all that stuff pounded into their heads for four years at some university. By the time they finish school, they think everyone talks in these terms. The trouble is the universities forgot to teach them how to communicate all this information to landowners. Sometimes foresters use these terms and phrases without even thinking the landowner doesn't understand.


Recently, I was in a Mexican restaurant and the waitress came over to take my order. She spoke with an accent and her English was not very good. My wife Karen has told me for 16 years that my English is not very good. So, the waitress and I were having a difficult time communicating, to say the least. I finally nodded in agreement to her latest statement not knowing what I was going to get to eat.

Oftentimes landowners feel the same way when they are discussing forestry. They end up nodding in agreement with the forester or timber buyer unsure of what they are going to get out of the deal. There is one big difference between the two situations. My lunch only cost \$6. If it isn't good, I can get over it with the help of a couple of Roloids. A landowner may have to live with his or her misunderstanding for years.

Nothing can replace a well written contract when selling timber; however, it is always wise to be well versed in some basic terms. Being familiar with these terms is good even if you are not going to sell any timber. This article seeks to highlight some of the basic forestry terms and phrases that may or may not be familiar to you.

Staying informed, being familiar with the terms, and knowing your product is important when making decisions that

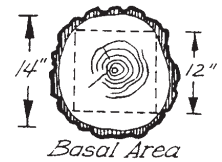
will impact your timber. Contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission office if you would like more information on managing your timber. The Alabama

Forestry Commission offers practical, scientific advice and forest management assistance. But, you are on your own when you go to eat Mexican. 

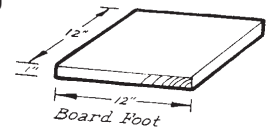
FOREST MEASUREMENT TERMS

Acre: A unit of area equaling 43,560 square feet or 10 square chains.

Basal Area: The area, usually in square feet, of the cross-section of a tree stem near its base, generally at breast height and inclusive of bark. The basal area per acre measurement gives you some idea of crowding of trees in a stand.

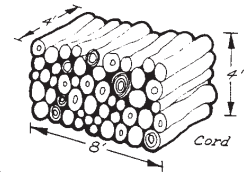


Board Foot: A unit of area for measuring lumber equaling 12 inches by 12 inches by 1 inch.



Chain: A unit of length. A surveyor's chain equals 66 feet or 1/80-mile, while the engineer's chain equals 100 feet.

Cord: A pile of stacked wood measuring 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet when originally conceived. Today the cord measure is largely based on weight. In Alabama the average cord of pine wood weighs 5,350 pounds and ranges between 4,700-5,550 pounds depending on the species and the region of the state.



Cubic Foot: A unit of volume measure, wood equivalent to a solid cube that measures 12 inches by 12 inches by 12 inches or 1,728 cubic inches.

Cunit: A volume of wood measuring 3 feet and 1-1/2 inches by 4 feet by 8 feet and containing 100 solid cubic feet of wood.

D.B.H. (diameter breast height): The measurement of a tree's diameter at 4-1/2 feet above the ground line.



Face Cord: A stack of wood measuring 2 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet. This unit of measure was primarily for firewood.

Live Crown Ratio (LCR): The percentage of the total tree height that has live, healthy crown.

M.B.F. (thousand board feet): A unit of measure containing 1,000 board feet.

Saw Log: A log considered suitable in size and quality for producing sawn timber.

Sawtimber: Trees fit to yield saw logs.

Section: A unit of area containing 640 acres or one square mile.

Site Class: A measure of the relative productive capacity of a site.

Site Index: A measure of the productivity of a site as indicated by the height of the dominant trees in the stand at an arbitrarily chosen age (usually 25 or 50).

Square Foot: A unit of area equaling 144 square inches.

Township: A unit of land area covering 23,040 acres or 36 sections.

New Office Increases ATFA Visibility and Service to Members

By **KIM G. NIX**, Editor

Just over a year ago the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association was operating out of James and Joan Malone's house. While their home office afforded several advantages, it left a little to be desired. There was not enough growing room and space for equipment and seating for visitors was limited. Then, one day, fate stepped in.

Dr. Mark Foley, the president of the University of Mobile, was in attendance at an ATFA meeting. Because the University owns forestland, he was interested in learning more about how to manage it. In addition, the Harrigan Forest Resources Center is located on the University campus. At the meeting he became very interested in the ATFA. He felt that the mission statement of the organization matched up perfectly with what the University was trying to accomplish with the Harrigan Center. Based on this, he offered office space to the ATFA. The presence of the ATFA, Dr. Foley said, would lend credibility to the Harrigan Center and the University.



In June of 2000, the ATFA moved into their new offices at the Harrigan Center. ATFA staff members say the new office allows them to serve their members better. In addition to having more room for office equipment, "We can offer meeting

and classroom space," says James Malone. "Our credibility has also expanded by having an office that people can visit and see."

The office has also created an opportunity for Alabama and the ATFA to play a greater role in the establishment of the National Network of Private Forest Landowners. The office serves as the national headquarters for that organization (see article on page 10).

The Dwight Harrigan Forest Learning Center sits on 125 acres of forestland on the University of Mobile campus. The instructional building, where the ATFA office is located, contains several meeting rooms that can provide accommodations for a wide range of programs and activities. Situated nearby are walking trails and the Albert S. Dix Rock and Mineral Museum. The mission of the Harrigan Center is "to produce properly informed advocates of the economic, recreational, and environmental importance of America's forests and related resources such as soil, water and wildlife."

Since its construction in the early 1990s, the Harrigan Center has been used as a teaching tool. Many classrooms from the Mobile County School System have made field trips to learn about forestry and natural resources. The center was developed through a cooperative effort between the Alabama Forest Resources Center, the Mobile County Public School System and the University of Mobile. Many individuals, organizations and forest industries contributed funds to help build the Harrigan Center.

To date, thousands have visited the Harrigan Center to learn more about Alabama's forests through classroom instruction and outdoor education. With the addition of the ATFA office, the center is expanding its teaching tools to an even wider audience. ☪



Staff Members Patty Johnston, Joan Malone and James Malone outside the ATFA office on the campus of the University of Mobile.

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Visit ATFA on the Web: www.atfa.net

National Network Formed to Assist Private Landowners

ATFA Provides Leadership

By **KIM G. NIX**, Editor

It's no secret that the state of Alabama is a national leader when it comes to forest stewardship. For example, the Forest Stewardship Program was patterned after the TREASURE Forest Program in 1990. Now the concept of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association is making the transition to the national level.

The network began when the U.S. Forest Service held a meeting of national State and Private Forestry directors in November 2000. Nine states that had shown a landowner involvement component in their stewardship programs were selected to send representatives to the meeting. The states were Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas and Wyoming. At this meeting, Alabama was recognized as a leader in the area of landowner involvement. All the state representatives at the meeting were private landowners; attending from Alabama were James and Joan Malone of the ATFA and State Forester Timothy C. Boyce.

Another meeting was held in January 2001 with the nine states and representatives from the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service. Bylaws had been prepared using the ATFA's as a template. The official name of the organization is the National Network of Private Forest Landowners. In

addition to passing bylaws, officers were elected and committees formed. James Malone was elected chairman, while Joan serves in a valuable role on one of the committees. Jill Cornell of New York is vice chairman; Gene Meyers of Texas is treasurer and Marisol Miranda-Greene of New Mexico was elected secretary.

According to James Malone, the purpose of the national network is to involve more people. "The ultimate goal is to provide an opportunity for family forest owners to understand the potential of what they own and allow them to become involved in forest stewardship," he said. "While there are 10 million landowners in the United States, less than 5 percent of them have any involvement with a government forestry agency or private group." Additional goals are to facilitate the sharing of information and to act as a clearinghouse for technical support, grant information, etc.

The bylaws state the mission as follows:

"To provide our country's 10 million non-industrial private forest landowners, who manage or wish to manage their forest resources under responsible forest stewardship principles, with an opportunity to network for the purpose of inspiring, encouraging, educating and listening to other landowners, the non-landowning public, elected officials and our children, focused on appropriate and sustainable

use of all forest resources, and the positive role private forest landowners play in the economic and environmental future of the United States."

Two areas of work have been identified as priorities for the national network. One is for the network to serve as a spokesperson for private family forests at national meetings. Recently James spoke at the National Governor's Association meeting and at a national meeting of the U.S.F.S. This is a way for forest landowners to be heard in a similar way to other organized groups.

Another area of work will be the formation of a web site for forest landowners. Categories of information to be provided will include tree identification for different parts of the country; urban forestry; forest facts; forest management; forest agency and industry organization links; economic information relating to forestry; and a listing of schools and colleges with forestry or environmental studies. The list is sure to grow as the site is developed.

Because James Malone is now chairman of the network, the national office is located in Mobile at the ATFA office. For more information about this national effort, contact the National Network of Private Forest Landowners, C/O University of Mobile, P.O. Box 13220, Mobile, AL 36663-0220; 251-442-2424. ☎

ATFA "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Leadership Conference Schedule

July 12-13

Joe Wheeler State Park
Rogersville, AL

September 13-14

Lakepoint Lodge
Eufaula, AL

October 4-5

Gulf Shores State Park
Gulf Shores, AL

For more information call the ATFA at 251-442-2424.

Tote Bags Presented to New TREASURE Forest Owners

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association has designed a new tote bag just for women. The tote bag will be distributed to newly certified TREASURE Forest landowners. The men will continue to receive a TREASURE Forest hat and the women will now receive a TREASURE Forest tote bag.

The tote bag idea came as a suggestion from one of the ladies attending an ATFA Leadership Conference in 2000. Many ideas such as this are shared among attendees at the leadership conferences. The ATFA has scheduled new leadership confer-



New TREASURE Forest landowner Jennifer Galloway receives a tote bag from Bibb County Manager Scott Smith.

ences for 2001; for more information regarding the conferences contact the ATFA at 251-442-2424.

The certified TREASURE Forest tote bags and the certified TREASURE Forest caps cannot be purchased. They are gifts from the ATFA to newly certified TREASURE Forest landowners. Both items are made by DeSoto DeSigns, a company

located in Fort Payne, Alabama. Although the certified bags and caps can not be purchased, Desoto DeSigns produces a wide-selection of products to help to promote the TREASURE Forest Program that are available for purchase. For more information on TREASURE Forest products such as hats, shirts, coats, bags, coffee mugs, etc., contact Brant Craig with Desoto Designs at 256-845-5783.

One of the first tote bags was presented to new TREASURE Forest landowner Jennifer Galloway. Heath and Jennifer Galloway have a total of 84 acres that are certified as a TREASURE Forest. We would like to welcome and congratulate them both as new TREASURE Forest landowners. ☕



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.

Trees Still Sound Investment

By **STEVE NIX**, Resource Analyst, Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama timber growers supported the third largest timber harvest on record during 2000. Despite a recent slump in timber demand and a reduction in stumpage values, forest landowners earned a very large income from their trees last year. The two leading years occurred in 1997 and 1998.

Based on an Alabama Forestry Commission report called "Production of Forest Products by Counties in Alabama," forest landowners sold 1.13 billion cubic feet of wood and banked \$878 million in cash receipts for their stumpage (see table). The highest valued forest product sold was pine sawtimber, which netted \$609 million and represent-

ed 70 percent of the total harvest value.

Five counties received top revenues from sales of forest products in 2000. Those counties were, in ranked order, Clarke, Hale, Choctaw, Monroe and Marengo. Revenues paid to timber growers in those counties alone totaled over \$210 million.

Alabama has experienced an upward trend for forest product production over the last 10 years (Figure 1). Demand for timber increased in both harvested volumes and the amount paid for products. Growing trees continues to be a sound investment.

The cash value of Alabama's timber harvest in 2000 (Figure 2) increased by

132 percent over its value in 1990. Ten-year harvest values ranged from a low of \$378 million in 1990 to a high of \$1 billion in 1998. Harvested volumes increased in a similar fashion, from a low of .9 billion cubic feet in 1990 to a high of almost 1.2 billion cubic feet in 1998.

An extra bit of good news comes with early data from the latest inventory of Alabama's forest. Initial reports tell us that increased harvest levels have not substantially affected the amount of available standing timber, either in total volume or in growth as compared to removals. Alabama continues to grow more trees and wood on increasing forest acres than ever before. ♣

Alabama Forest Product Production and Value, 2000*

COUNTY	PINE SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Scribner)	HARDWOOD SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Doyle)	PINE PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	HARDWOOD PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	POLES AND PILES Volume (mbf Doyle)	Estimated Harvest Revenue Stump Value (\$Thousand)
Autauga	13,054	1,891	45,503	41,859	0	\$7,081
Baldwin	50,404	1,141	180,684	54,386	6,244	\$27,452
Barbour	21,343	3,282	170,871	92,687	287	\$14,381
Bibb	23,562	6,347	41,458	19,242	2,811	\$12,769
Blount	13,211	2,677	16,523	17,843	24	\$5,739
Bullock	7,724	549	81,619	42,747	0	\$5,656
Butler	60,941	956	202,948	87,253	734	\$29,554
Calhoun	14,551	1,536	32,327	26,985	0	\$6,456
Chambers	30,218	3,630	121,271	66,472	0	\$15,970
Cherokee	14,827	1,037	38,149	19,552	0	\$6,448
Chilton	20,298	1,876	52,905	43,407	0	\$9,974
Choctaw	82,809	4,300	167,810	124,839	3,535	\$39,842
Clarke	88,241	28,378	232,590	201,604	6,047	\$50,639
Clay	11,616	7,681	74,879	49,816	0	\$8,412
Cleburne	17,638	2,118	52,992	34,924	0	\$8,221
Coffee	10,368	1,036	81,032	48,675	153	\$6,923
Colbert	5,259	2,162	51,206	42,175	0	\$4,094
Conecuh	62,381	1,861	270,053	127,221	1,638	\$33,042
Coosa	18,638	2,556	154,886	63,389	33	\$12,144
Covington	20,802	1,931	118,605	67,700	1,970	\$12,153
Crenshaw	21,235	6,431	107,989	61,822	144	\$12,822
Cullman	26,458	2,774	42,654	46,619	55	\$11,362
Dale	12,365	1,550	38,002	66,901	100	\$7,171
Dallas	35,106	4,493	112,564	84,334	46	\$18,157
DeKalb	9,647	7,137	9,574	33,642	0	\$5,550
Elmore	9,999	2,908	42,044	35,270	21	\$5,926
Escambia	37,419	1,201	142,783	118,519	8,892	\$24,548
Etowah	8,279	1,761	18,038	36,486	0	\$4,212
Fayette	21,194	3,332	42,550	57,564	0	\$9,843

Alabama Forest Product Production and Value, 2000*

COUNTY	PINE SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Scribner)	HARDWOOD SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Doyle)	PINE PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	HARDWOOD PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	POLES AND PILES Volume (mbf Doyle)	Estimated Harvest Revenue Stump Value (\$Thousand)
Franklin	8,727	6,598	52,689	78,162	0	\$6,843
Geneva	5,989	835	43,120	35,654	256	\$4,209
Greene	32,220	9,390	19,275	61,077	205	\$15,538
Hale	117,634	4,217	26,010	51,431	352	\$46,476
Henry	12,840	1,257	24,430	48,048	279	\$6,702
Houston	5,185	2,104	35,525	34,716	97	\$3,870
Jackson	9,147	10,919	13,721	53,500	0	\$6,592
Jefferson	36,858	5,579	45,177	55,257	0	\$15,666
Lamar	17,368	5,809	59,213	71,350	29	\$9,666
Lauderdale	3,721	1,621	11,101	41,774	0	\$2,567
Lawrence	2,524	1,718	9,680	28,707	0	\$1,922
Lee	11,376	1,918	68,546	43,345	0	\$6,995
Limestone	1,600	580	5,741	12,197	0	\$1,002
Lowndes	19,252	667	110,874	47,981	403	\$10,943
Macon	8,667	1,528	70,559	43,037	0	\$5,951
Madison	2,604	2,581	929	2,282	0	\$1,479
Marengo	60,112	33,375	122,804	149,568	2,518	\$35,679
Marion	18,320	4,921	79,307	65,614	46	\$10,160
Marshall	5,699	2,748	1,843	18,285	0	\$2,865
Mobile	25,657	1,185	44,076	21,655	3,356	\$13,007
Monroe	77,213	3,835	252,582	104,316	2,922	\$38,768
Montgomery	8,275	5,061	41,365	33,475	114	\$5,675
Morgan	8,233	1,483	13,248	13,661	0	\$3,640
Perry	24,963	1,984	90,750	43,496	239	\$12,692
Pickens	39,452	16,348	62,388	46,834	403	\$19,183
Pike	10,751	2,569	68,103	42,092	267	\$6,989
Randolph	15,567	2,543	56,884	28,190	0	\$8,102
Russell	6,983	1,536	80,109	33,900	43	\$5,366
Shelby	12,012	2,006	66,662	13,581	0	\$6,213
St Clair	18,201	2,237	82,571	41,257	0	\$9,198
Sumter	38,292	7,144	104,056	59,547	1,061	\$19,675
Tallapoosa	22,808	3,198	119,820	59,238	0	\$12,945
Talladega	16,527	1,657	79,224	53,675	0	\$8,648
Tuscaloosa	48,572	9,309	36,949	61,673	0	\$20,357
Walker	23,837	1,861	56,426	83,238	0	\$11,189
Washington	56,407	1,449	86,291	109,348	5,156	\$28,239
Wilcox	50,791	4,352	175,855	108,972	1,837	\$26,842
Winston	17,336	6,448	64,175	38,010	46	\$9,330
TOTAL	1,671,304	283,098	5,126,587	3,752,076	52,363	\$877,725

*Estimated from Severance Tax Reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue

Fig. 1 Alabama's Timber Harvest
Estimated Volume Using Reported Severance

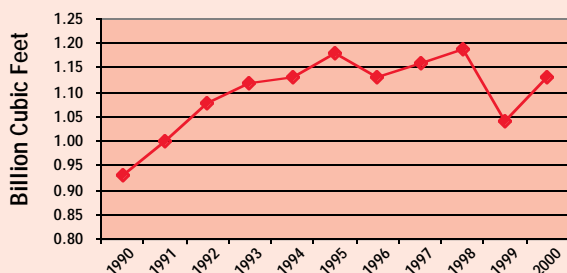
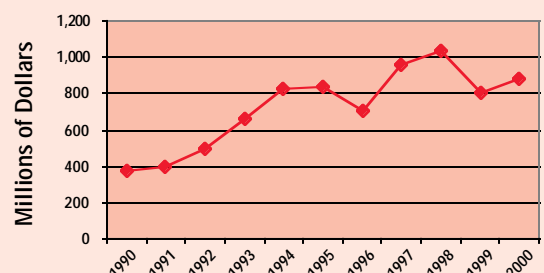


Fig. 2 Alabama's Timber Harvest
Estimated Value in Dollars Paid For Stumpage



Bill Moody Award Presented Annually at Conference

By **BOBBY DEAN**, Membership Services Coordinator, Alabama TREASURE Forest Association

The TREASURE Forest Association and the TREASURE Forest Program both have a long history of individuals and groups who have dedicated many years and countless man-hours to the promotion of the multiple-use management concept.

The TREASURE Forest Program is based on the philosophy that private landowners should be encouraged to manage their forestlands and rewarded for their accomplishments. It works by utilizing a network of agency professionals and individuals to assist landowners in establishing and following forest management plans. These plans are designed to achieve the landowner's individual objectives and outline sound forest management practices and ethics that promote good stewardship of all forest natural resources.

The Bill Moody Award is given each year by the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association to honor those individuals and or groups who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the TREASURE Forest Program and the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

Beginning in 1996, the selection process for the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award was changed so that the state of Alabama was divided into four TREASURE Forest regions. Each of the four regions selected their outstanding TREASURE Forest winner and each was a recipient of the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award. The Bill Moody Award was introduced that year by the Alabama TREASURE Forest Landowners Association and was presented to the outstanding TREASURE Forest winner among the four regional winners selected that year. Dr. Emory Cunningham received the 1996 Bill Moody Award.

In 1997 The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association instituted a change in the Bill Moody Award criteria. The four regional outstanding TREASURE Forest winners would all be considered by the ATFA as state Helene Mosley winners and the Bill Moody Award would from then on be presented to an individual or group who had made significant and outstanding contributions to the TREASURE Forest Program and the ATFA. Each acknowledgment presented in

honor of the award has a special connection to ATFA and involves woods native to Alabama.

In 1997, W. Kelly Mosley was the first recipient of the Bill Moody Award as the individual who had made an outstanding and significant contribution to the TREASURE Forest Program and ATFA. His generosity has helped promote stewardship by recognizing and rewarding those who have set the highest example of what the TREASURE Forest philosophy aspires to convey. Because this was the first of the awards in this category, Dan and Romaleta James (TREASURE Forest #385) felt strongly that the award should carry with it a distinct and unique acknowledgment of service rendered. That year they provided a framed map of the state of Alabama. Wilson Beard of Denham Springs, Louisiana, handcrafted each individual county shape from a different species of wood. Dan James collected the 67 different species of wood from his TREASURE Forest in Bibb County and delivered them personally to Beard. Beard's son is Patrick Beard, who heads the Louisiana State Stewardship Program for



Dr. Emory Cunningham, right, with son David and the 1996 award.



This award was for Kelly Mosley, who was unable to travel to Huntsville in 1997 to accept it.



State Forester Timothy C. Boyce with the 1999 award.



Jerry Johnson, right, 1998 recipient, accepts the award from ATFA Executive Director James Malone.



Larkin Wade, center, was the 2000 recipient of the Bill Moody Award. Gary Fortenberry, left, and Timothy C. Boyce, right, made the presentation.

the Louisiana State Forestry Commission.

The 1998 Bill Moody Award recipient was Jerry Johnson, state staff forester, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Auburn, Alabama. His support of forest landowners and the ATFA combined with his involvement early in the development stages of the TREASURE Forest Program standards helped strengthen a foundation for good forest stewardship in Alabama. The acknowledgment that year was "Eagle in Flight." It was constructed of wood and has a 52-inch wing span. The craftsman was Jesse Kinnaird of Centreville, Alabama, and the eagle was produced in an intarsia (mosaic) pat-

tern method with American holly, Eastern redcedar, black walnut and American smoke tree (chittum wood). Jerry is a native of Centreville, Alabama, and Dan James provided the wood to Mr. Kinnaird.

The 1999 Bill Moody Award recipient was State Forester Timothy C. Boyce. Mr. Boyce's involvement in the development and implementation of the TREASURE Forest Program and his long-term commitment to supporting landowners and the ATFA, have been a cornerstone of the success of both. The acknowledgment that year was a 15-inch marquetry (inlaid design) plate with the TREASURE Forest logo. Produced by mar-

quetry master Ernie Ives of Ipswich, England, its picture was featured in the year 2000 International Wood Collectors Society membership brochure. Mr. Ives is a personal friend of Dan and Romaleta James and the plate was the result of their collaboration. It contained sycamore, ash, camphor, maclura, and olive.

The 2000 Bill Moody Award recipient was Larkin Wade, retired Extension forester for Auburn University. Larkin supported the TREASURE Forest Program as a member of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee since its beginning. The acknowledgment that year was a wooden map of the state of Alabama produced by Ray Morgan of Decatur, Alabama. The map was made from birch and depicted all 67 counties.

Many acknowledge Bill Moody as the father of the TREASURE Forest Program. Mr. Moody started talking to the Forestry Commission about an idea he had to get landowners in Alabama to become better informed and better stewards of their land over a quarter century ago. He told this TREASURE Forest story to everybody who would listen. Bill Moody and the members of the Alabama Forestry Commission knew that forestry is complex and that landowners needed help in understanding how to manage Alabama's woodlands. Mr. Moody knew that there was a need for coordination among the state agencies that helped landowners. Member agencies and organizations of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee have worked over the years with many in forest industry and the business community to cooperate in their tasks of serving and involving landowners. Countless numbers of people helped Bill Moody with the establishment of the TREASURE Forest Program and the ATFA, but it is his leadership that is recognized through the award.

The Bill Moody Award recipient for 2001 is still a deep, dark secret, and the acknowledgment for that award is being completed at the time of this publication. The award will be handed out at the Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference to be held in Auburn on October 25-26. Information about the conference can be found on pages 30-31 of this issue. 🏆

Memorials

W. Kelly Mosley

William Kelly Mosley died May 13, 2001, in Atlanta. He was 98 years old. Most are familiar with Kelly Mosley as the owner of Alabama's first TREASURE Forest. Mosley was born in Rembert, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University in 1924 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

He retired from Southern Bell as assistant vice president for public relations in 1964. During his life he held leadership positions for the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, the Atlanta Kiwanis Club and the Red Cross.



Kelly Mosley in 1992

His conservation awards included recognition from Goodyear, Gulf Oil and he was named Forest Conservationist of the Year as part of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards in Alabama. Through personal gifts and the support of the John and Mary Franklin Foundation, he was instrumental in establishing at Auburn University the Ralph Draughon Lectures, the Franklin Lectures and the Mosley Environmental Awards Program. In 1983, the Franklin Foundation established at Auburn the W. Kelly Mosley Professorship in Science and Humanities.

Awards from Auburn included an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree and the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Humanitarian Award. He also received

an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law.

He was married to the late Helene Hudson Mosley and the late Theodosia Thomas Porter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Metropolitan Atlanta Boys and Girls Club, 100 Edgewood Ave., Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303 or a favorite charity.

Milton Loughridge

Robert Milton Loughridge died May 6, 2001, at the age of 73. Loughridge graduated from Arkansas A&M in 1948 with a degree in forest technology. He was a long-time employee of Buchanan Lumber Company in Selma and was a registered forester.

Loughridge was appointed to the Alabama Forestry Commission by Governor Guy Hunt in 1988 and served until 1993. He was instrumental in helping revise *Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry*, which was published in 1993. He was a member of the Hardwood Research Council and served as an advisor to the Auburn University School of Forestry. He was a recipient of the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Achievement Award in 1993.

The family requests that memorials be made to one's favorite charity.

Charlotte Eichold

Charlotte Hartsig Eichold of Mobile died April 3, 2001, at the age of 83. Mrs. Eichold was the wife of Dr. Samuel Eichold. The family property in Escambia County was designated as TREASURE Forest #285 in 1984.

Mrs. Eichold was known throughout the Mobile area as a philanthropist and art patron. The Eicholds founded Camp Seale Harris for Diabetic Children in 1947. They also established the Eichold Fine Arts Center and the Rare Book Room at the Byrne Memorial Library.

Memorials can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 3280 Dauphin St., Suite B-128, Mobile, AL 36606.

Irobel F. Herring

Irobel F. Herring, 73, of Gurley, Alabama, died June 4, 2001. The property owned by Mrs. Herring and her husband, Harold F. Herring, was certified as TREASURE Forest #203 in 1982. Timber and wildlife are the designated management objectives for the property.

Mrs. Herring was a member of Christ Episcopal Church. Memorials may be made to Hospice Family Care or Christ Episcopal Church.

Jimmy Bragan

Jimmy Bragan, age 72, of Westover, Ala., passed away June 2, 2001. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sarah King Bragan.

He was a graduate of Mississippi State University where he was an all S.E.C. Standout. After signing his first professional baseball contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he went on to achieve success in the Minor Leagues, earning an M.V.P., as well as winning a championship as a player-manager. His career continued as a scout and coach for the Cincinnati Reds, Montreal Expos, and Milwaukee Brewers and he also served as head coach at Mississippi State University.

You can read more the Bragan's Shelby County TREASURE Forest on page 19 of this issue.

The family requests memorials be made to the Watchman Fellowship, 402 Office Park Drive, Mountain Brook, AL 35223 or Liberty Baptist Church Building Fund, 121050 Chelsea Rd., Chelsea, AL 35043.

Correction

The Spring 2001 issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* listed an incorrect telephone number on page 9. The correct number for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership contact person is 334-514-8326.

Creatures of the Dark

By **JIM GODWIN**, Aquatic Zoologist, Alabama Natural Heritage Program

Imagine living where one is always surrounded by an absolute, thick, black darkness, a place where the sun never shines and never will. How would you find food and shelter, attract a mate, and avoid being eaten? These living conditions are normal for the many species of animals that inhabit the caves of Alabama. In this world are spiders, beetles, pseudoscorpions, fish, and other animals that have adapted to life underground, and in fact are incapable of surviving in what we know as typical surroundings. These species occupy the open underground spaces of karst, a type of landscape in which there is a layer of soluble rock, such as limestone, and as the rock dissolves internal drainage patterns develop. The common features of karst are caves, sinkholes, and springs. Karst landscape is widespread throughout northern Alabama, but there are also karst regions in the other areas of the state.

A dramatic difference between the above-ground and below-ground worlds is that there is much less food available in caves. Consider that underground there is no sunlight, thus no green plants to capture the energy from the sun. For example, a square foot of habitat in a typical cave receives 2,000 times less energy than if it were on the surface. So most, if not all, of the energy that is found in caves comes from above. Leaf litter, humus, logs, twigs, and wayward animals from the forests above falling or being washed into sinkholes are one way that energy is brought into caves. Another method is from animals, such as bats and crickets, that feed outside of caves, reenter the cave, and leave droppings.

Cave ecosystems are quite sensitive and are very vulnerable to impacts such



Southern cavefish (Typhlichthys subterraneus), a relatively common species in aquatic caves of north Alabama.



Cave crayfish, often found in caves with southern cavefish.

as pollutants, industrial waste, municipal sewage, hazardous chemical spills, runoff from polluted surface areas, overuse of groundwater, and introduced species such as fire ants. The history of using sinkholes as trash dumps has been very detrimental to many caves.

Cave life is categorized by the degree with which the various species use caves, and whether the species is aquatic or terrestrial. Animals that normally live outside of caves but occasionally enter them are termed "accidentals." These species cannot live within the cave environment for any appreciable length of

time. Examples here would be raccoons, box turtles, and humans.

Trogloxenes spend a large portion of time in caves but must leave them in order to feed. Bats, woodrats, and cave crickets are good examples of this type of cave life. Gray bats and Indiana bats are two rare bats that are found in some caves in the state. Both of these species are listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The most extremely adapted, and interesting group, includes troglobites and stygobites. Troglotic animals are terrestrial and must live in caves throughout their life. Stygobitic animals are aquatic obligate cave dwellers. Stygobitic and troglotic species are typically eyeless, have no coloration, lay fewer but larger eggs, and have extended life spans. For example, cave crayfish are thought to live for about 40 years. Other senses have become more developed to accommodate for the loss of vision. Examples of these species are southern cavefish, cave crayfish, the Cave Spring cave spider, and numerous insects. Two of the stygobites that have been listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service are the Alabama cavefish and Alabama cave shrimp. Other species are currently being studied to learn more about their habits, life histories, and status.

Alabama is rich in caves—approximately 3,500 are known—as well as having many springs and sinkholes, and has a correspondingly rich level of cave biodiversity. In fact, Jackson County has more species of obligate cave dwellers than any other county in the United States. The next time that you're walking the woods, look down and think about the life that may be deep below your feet. ♣

HIDDEN



TREASURES

A Vision for the Future

By **LAKEDRA C. BYRD**, Southwest Region Outreach Forester

One fall afternoon while riding the subway home from work, Mrs. Ellen Byrd realized she was fed up with the hustle and bustle of city life and wanted to get back to the basic, simple life. For many years, Mrs. Byrd spent her summer vacation in Wilcox County doing volunteer work at the Snow Hill Institute with a close friend. Each year her love for the South grew stronger and stronger. One afternoon, she received a phone call from her friend, notifying her about some property for sale in Furman. Not knowing the condition of the land, but having a great love for the South, Mrs. Byrd purchased the 37 acres, sight unseen. Arriving in Furman several weeks later, she was surprised at the deteriorated condition of the property. The forest was very dense and overgrown, and the pond had not been maintained for several years. That did not break her spirit. There was a great deal of work to be done!

Having a spiritual vision and divine motive, Mrs. Byrd began implementing her plan to establish The Black Freedman's Living Historical Farm for Children, Inc. (BFLHFFC). Because of the various needs of this community, the goal of the BFLHFFC is to provide an educational, cultural, recreational, and historical environment that will inspire the youth to develop a sense of self-respect, as well as become responsible individuals in relation to their history and natural resources. The BFLHFFC was founded on February 24, 1994, and is located 52 miles southeast of Montgomery and 32 miles southeast of Selma in rural Wilcox County in Furman, Alabama.

Being a retired preschool teacher and having a love for children and a strong

concern for the environment, Mrs. Byrd wanted to show children how their inner world connects to the outer world of all living things: people, plants, and animals. On October 12, 1995, the farm established its Environmental Education Program (EEP). This program is



Mrs. Ellen Byrd

designed to stimulate environmental awareness and educate youth as well as the citizens of Wilcox County to understand the importance of good stewardship and how to protect our natural resources.

Since the establishment of the EEP, the farm has touched the lives of more than 400 elementary and middle school students throughout the Wilcox area. During the year, the farm has several programs to promote environmental awareness, such as Forestry Day,

Wildlife Habitat Day, and Water Ecology Day. Specialists from different state, private, and local agencies come to teach the students about wetland preservation, tree identification, soil and water conservation, and wildlife conservation.

As an extension to the EEP, the farm also participates in an annual poster and essay contest sponsored by the Wilcox County Soil and Water Conservation District. The students enjoy the competition of this yearly event. Certificates and cash prizes are awarded for their art and essays on various environmental topics.

The EEP is supported through grants, donations, county agencies, volunteers, and board members. With their assistance, Mrs. Byrd was able to install a syphoning system in an existing 3-acre fishpond to control beaver and the water level, construct a one mile nature trail, install tree identification posts and plates, build a bridge across the wetland area where a small alligator resides, install duck boxes and bird houses throughout the farm and create an oval-shaped flower garden that serves as a "backyard garden" for wildlife activities.

Lynn Garris from the Department of Conservation was so impressed with the work that Mrs. Byrd was doing, she decided to write a letter of recommendation to the Wilcox County Forestry Commission requesting that she become a candidate for the TREASURE Forest Program. In March 2000, Mrs. Byrd was certified as a TREASURE Forest landowner through Environmental Education. Within a few months of this certification, she became a proud recipient of the W. Kelly Mosley

Continued on page 23

HIDDEN



TREASURES

Hall of Fame Inducts True “TREASURE”

By TILDA MIMS, Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Northwest Region

After 44 years in the world of professional baseball, Jimmy and Sarah Bragan are enjoying their retirement at “Rolling Meadows,” a 40-acre TREASURE Forest in north Shelby County. The hayfield they purchased 20 years ago now boasts stocked ponds, ample wildlife foods and an orchard of peaches, plums, apples, pears, figs and scuppernongs. Their lovely home is a peaceful retreat from the fast-paced careers they enjoyed for so many years.

This winter, however, they joined one of the state’s biggest parties to see Jimmy inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2001 along with Wendell Hudson, Derrick Thomas and others. The third pair of brothers to enter the Hall, Jimmy joined his brother Bobby in the ASHOF.

After graduation from Birmingham’s Phillips High School, Jimmy accepted a baseball scholarship to Mississippi State and played on the 1948 and 1949 SEC championship teams. In 1950, he married Sarah and they embarked on a 44-year journey of playing and coaching baseball, while raising their family.

He played professionally as high as AA at Fort Worth and Mobile, was head coach at MSU and managed in the minors. He was a major-league scout, signing Sammy Ellis and Lee May, and then reached the majors as a coach at Cincinnati, Montreal and Milwaukee. He played with Frank Robinson at

Columbia, saw the first major league game of Johnny Bench at Cincinnati and the last home run of Hank Aaron at Milwaukee.

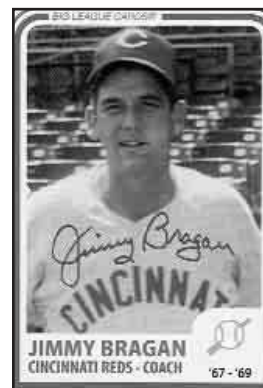
Jimmy spent the last 14 years of their career as president of the Class AA Southern League, working with Sarah in one of the country’s most successful minor league offices. While managing the League they continued working on their Shelby County farm to establish ponds, forested areas, an orchard and wildlife habitat.



Shelby County Manager Clay Snider and Jimmy Bragan.

A new brick home complete with winding drive and complementary flowering shrubs and trees was finished shortly before their date of retirement. Within a week after leaving the Southern League, they were living at Rolling Meadows.

Today, Jimmy tends to his orchard, taking particular pride in his scuppernongs. His dad grew them when he was a child and he had always wanted to do the same. He says that people scoff when



he says he has grown them the size of golf balls but he swears it is true. He uses the trimmed vines to make decorative wreaths that he and Sarah

give to friends and family.

Rolling Meadows has become a gathering place for the large extended family of Bragans. There is a swimming pool, open areas for four-wheelers, several dogs and lots of wide, open spaces for the grandchildren and their friends. Brothers, sisters, children and friends are frequent visitors to the peaceful setting, and Jimmy and Sarah clearly welcome the opportunity to enjoy time with their family.

After a life of travel and the fast pace of professional sports, the Bragans are enjoying life on their farm. I don’t know if he is the first TREASURE Forest landowner to be inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame or not, but I am certain that no Hall-of-Famer ever had more fun growing scuppernongs, trees and ♣️ bream than Jimmy Bragan.

Editor’s Note: Mr. Bragan passed away shortly after this story was written. Please read more about him on page 16.

Alabama Forest Landowners Summit:

Future and Current Markets for Forest Products

Alabama has the second largest commercial timberland base in the United States. With more than 225,000 forest landowners in Alabama, timberland is our most important land use. Therefore, the forest industry has become the historical backbone of Alabama's manufacturing economy with operations located in every county of the state. Some of the industry's statistics (1999) include:

- The largest industry in value-of-shipments (\$14.4 billion)
- The largest industry in size of payroll (\$2.3 billion)
- The largest industry in export trade (\$1 billion)

It is not surprising that Alabama's forest products industry continues to be of vital importance to our state. However, the downturn of the United States economy has helped to create conditions that have negatively impacted Alabama's for-

est products industry. Forest landowners and the forest products industry are suffering through tumultuous times. The industry has experienced traumatic closures and downsizing within the past four years. Since January 1997, approximately 4,000 jobs have been lost due to plant closures and layoffs in the forest industry. Some of which include: the permanent closure and downsizing of some prominent pulp and paper operations around Alabama; numerous closures of sawmills scattered throughout Alabama; and closures and downsizing of some of Alabama's furniture manufacturing facilities and other secondary value-added operations.

On February 1, 2001, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association sponsored a "summit" for forest landowners with an agenda designed to facilitate discussion on future and current markets for forest products. The summit was hosted by the University of Mobile. Attending

were 208 forest landowners and industry representatives from across Alabama. Many of the speakers focused their presentations on the negative impacts on Alabama's forestry and wood products industry being caused by the downturn in the United States economy. There were many questions and topics discussed, the primary ones being: "How did we get into the current situation?" and "What can be done by forest landowners and the public sector to create other opportunities for forest-based economic development that would expand diminishing markets for timber?"

Pulp and Paper Industry

As discussed in great detail during the summit, the current conditions of Alabama's pulp and paper industry were caused by many factors. Indeed, it has been a very difficult business environment recently from the standpoint of market pulp and finished paper product prices. Of course, this has affected the overall demand for pulpwood as well as the market-driven price of standing timber received by forest landowners. As we look at the reasons behind the economic downfall affecting the pulp and paper industry, the following conditions exist:

- Alabama's pulp and paper industry has not fully recovered from the downfall of Asian markets during 1997-98.
- For most pulp and paper products, prices immediately fell in the range of 40-50 percent from their peaks of a few years earlier. While prices have improved in most product areas over the past six months, prices are still 20-25 percent off the levels reached about five years ago.
- The U.S. dollar continues to be strong against other foreign currency, hurting exports.



Alabama's forest products industry continues to be of vital importance to our state.

- While the immediate problem was triggered by the economic downturns in Asian economies, the larger problem has been one of excess capacity worldwide.
- Unfortunately, there is new capacity being constructed internationally in places having competitive advantages, notably South America and Southeast Asia.
- Domestic demand has been relatively good; however, worldwide demand for paper products has been soft and excess capacity has driven down product prices.

Solid Wood Products

The discussion facilitated by the summit on the current conditions and factors impacting Alabama's solid wood products industry were as follows:

- Lumber and panel prices are down 40-50 percent or more over the last 18 months.
- Only the most efficient producers are operating in the black.
- Domestic demand for lumber and panel products has actually been good during this period. Housing demand has held up well, as has repair and alteration, consumer and industrial markets.
- There has been an oversupply of finished product facilitated by record productions at domestic mills; record levels of imports particularly from Canada; and declining levels of U.S. lumber exports.

Questions about the Market

Forest landowners attending the summit had many questions regarding declining timber markets for both pulpwood and sawtimber. Forest landowners wanted to know if there existed any specific strategy they could undertake to meet the challenges created by a wood fiber market having fewer buyers. Forest landowners inquired about the role state and local governments played in addressing the loss of forest-based manufacturing jobs and declining timber markets. In an attempt to answer some of their concerns, information was presented on the following topics:

- Role of Economic Developers
- Worldwide Pulp and Paper Market Outlook
- Softwood and Hardwood Lumber Product Market Outlook
- Future Outlook For Alabama's State Docks
- International Trade Opportunities
- Alternative Markets For Timber

The loss of jobs, declining timber markets and wood product manufacturing capacity in Alabama has been painful to many communities and prompted concerns about the future of forestry. However, history tells us that Alabama's forestry and wood products industry will survive and continue to be the backbone of Alabama's economy. The following facts project a bright future for forestry in Alabama:

1. Forest resource planners predict production of wood products will continue to shift toward the South from other parts of the country because of increased timberland productivity and declining harvesting opportunities in the Pacific Northwest.
2. Alabama and many other southern states will continue to be large and competitive producers of wood products with excellent timber supplies. Softwood lumber, pulpwood, paper products and composite wood structural panel production

are projected to increase most in the South.

3. The most recent forest inventory indicates that the total forest acreage for Alabama is increasing. There are more non-industrial private forest acres than ever before. The total volume for both pine and hardwood is increasing.

4. Alabama has one of the best infrastructures for producing and delivering wood products. Worldwide economic growth should continuously improve demand for wood products.

5. Recovering foreign economies and a more favorable currency exchange rate should lead to increased business opportunities for Alabama forest products manufacturers in international markets.

The forest landowner summit provided a good forum for discussing the issues and concerns facing Alabama's forest landowners. If anything is to be learned from this event, it is that Alabama's forest landowners are determined to manage Alabama's forest resource as good stewards. They are also willing to play a role in facilitating forest based economic development across Alabama. To address the economic concerns, a coalition of state agencies, academic institutions, private industry and forest landowners are working together to help maintain and expand the forest products industry—and in turn ensure the further development of Alabama's economy. ♣



Forest products being loaded onto a ship at the Alabama State Docks facility in Mobile.

Moving Among Bears

A guide to selling your timber while the market is down

By **BILLY RYE**, Forest Management Specialists, Florence, Alabama

Stumpage prices have retreated significantly from their record highs in the fourth quarter of 1997. Most of the downturn may be traced to simple economics: decreased demand and increased supply.

Some of the factors that have affected the decrease in demand for forest products include the following:

Slowdown in Asian Economies. The slowdown in several of the key Asian economies has led to a reduced demand for Southern yellow pine pulp and paper products. Prior to 1998, a large portion of the pulp and paper products manufactured in the Southeastern U.S. went to Asian markets. Many landowners in the Southeastern U.S. first felt this reduction in demand in the form of lower prices for standing timber in the second quarter of 1998. While the Asian economies have improved, they have also diversified their sources of pulp and paper products to include areas outside of the Southeastern U.S. This diversification of sources may slow the price recovery.

Forest Industry Mergers. In a form of economic Darwinism, the "Big-uns" are on a buying binge and are gobbling up smaller forest industries. While this makes the larger companies more attractive to investors by reducing market fragmentation, the net result to landowners is less competition and lower stumpage prices.

Slowdown in Housing Starts. Housing starts have declined somewhat since 1999. In addition, alternative building products have cut into this traditional niche for forest products. This has helped to force the prices down for finished products such as lumber, plywood and oriented strand board (OSB). Eventually, this results in lower prices paid for stumpage.

In addition to the decrease in demand for most forest products, there has been a simultaneous increase in the amount of wood on the market due to these factors:

Prolonged Drought. The mid South

has endured almost three years of severe drought. This drought has facilitated harvesting of normally wet areas by making them accessible to heavy equipment. In addition, harvesting is normally curtailed during the winter due to an increase of precipitation. This reduction of available wood usually causes an increase in stumpage prices. However, due to the lack of rain during the winters of 1999 and 2000, there was no such price recovery. While any rain is appreciated at this point, only a return to a regular weather pattern will help stumpage prices in the long term.

*The key to being successful
in any business is to meet
your customer's needs
on a timely basis.*

Southern Pine Beetle Epidemic. Periodic outbreaks of Southern pine beetle are expected and considered normal. However, the epidemic, which started in the late summer of 1998, has been drastically accentuated by the prolonged drought. This drought has made it difficult for the trees to defend themselves and has allowed beetle populations to reach an all time high. This has further flooded the market with wood as landowners and forest industries attempt to mitigate their losses.

Increase in Thinning. Most Southeastern states experienced a dramatic increase in tree planting during the early to mid 1980s. State and federal cost-share programs were created to increase timber production, reduce erosion, and take excess marginal cropland out of production. Stands planted under these programs, as well as those on industry lands are now old enough to receive the first thinning. The amount of acreage needing a thin will continue to increase for at least the next 15 years as

more stands reach this size.

In addition to the supply and demand aspects of the timber market, a certain amount of the decrease in stumpage prices can be attributed to what we in the industry call a "price correction." Price fixing involves coercion and is illegal. While I seriously doubt that this has occurred, I would also be naive to think that industries have not made a concerted effort to avoid the spiraling stumpage increases experienced in the mid-1990s.

Strategies for Coping with a "Bear Market"

By adopting the following strategies, you will be more likely to sell your timber or timberland and limit your losses while the market is down.

Quickly respond to what buyers need. The key to being successful in any business is to meet your customer's needs on a timely basis. Two methods that we have found to be successful during "bear" markets are to find purchasers that have a micro-niche and those with temporary shortages. For instance, we have been able to move some tracts of timber because we knew of a purchaser that needed low-grade hardwood sawtimber to meet a large contract that he had with a local industry. In addition, we have found that hardwood sawmills in Tennessee are currently experiencing a shortage for certain forest products and are still willing to pay a premium! We also know of at least three large industries that were so concerned about controlling Southern pine beetle on their own property that they failed to supply their chip-n-saw mills with adequate wood. This created a short-term demand in the middle of a downturn and allowed us to move some pine when others found it impossible.

Compromise. If you must move wood during a downturn, then you have to lower your expectations for price and how the timber is to be harvested. One of the easiest methods is to increase the

length of time that you allow for your timber to be harvested. Most business people are inherently optimistic and buyers are often willing to speculate that prices will rebound sometime within the length of your contract. Therefore, they may be willing to pay more for contracts that allow them 18-24 months to harvest your timber than for the typical 12-month contract. If your property does not have access to a public road, you may consider providing an easement for your timber purchaser. This may make your tract more attractive to timber purchasers and help you to move your wood when others are unable. In addition, if you must sell your timber during a "bear" market, you will have to accept lower prices. However, you can maximize the amount that you receive for standing timber by applying the same marketing techniques used by forestry consultants while the market is good.

Cut your losses. To limit damage from Southern pine beetle, you may consider paying for the infested trees to be pushed down and piled. While this is a direct cost and no revenue for the trees pushed down is realized, it may save the remainder of your stand for times when the market improves. In addition, you may want to consider selling your timber on a "pay-as-cut" basis. Under this method of payment the buyer assumes less risk and may pass the savings along to you. However, the burden of risk is shifted from the buyer to you and you should not consider this method until

you have consulted with a qualified resource professional with your best interest in mind.

Examine alternative sources of income. Regardless of the status of stumpage prices, you should consider alternative sources of income from your forestland. Prices paid for hunting and recreational uses of forestland are at an all-time high. These types of leases provide additional revenue during down times and reputable lessees can act as stewards of your resources. While one wouldn't want to sell the family farm off in parcels just because the timber market is down, if you have acquired forestland for investment purposes, now may be the time to sell. Many successful suburbanites are looking for forestland to purchase for the purposes of recreation and relaxation. This increase in demand equates to an increase in value for desirable rural forestland.

Conclusion

The future of the timber market for the Southeastern U.S. is uncertain. Most experts expect that prices will recover somewhat during 2002 with gradual increases possible in the succeeding years. However, the exponential price increases of the mid to late 1990s will probably not be experienced again during our lifetime. Despite these prognostications, forestland is still a good investment and by employing the above listed strategies, you can limit your losses and survive until the stumpage prices recover. ♣

A Vision for the Future

Continued from page 18

Environmental Achievement Award for her excellence in forestry, wildlife, and related sciences.

Having accomplished so much, Mrs. Byrd feels that there is still much more to be done. There is another segment of the farm that has not been completed. The historical aspect of the BFLHFFC entails linking history and environmental education together. Presently, she is working on a 3,000 square foot facility that was once used as a dairy and is now

being converted into an environmental lab for hands-on observation. This project will be completed soon will be an asset to the community as well as an enhancement to the TREASURE Forest program.

With spiritual guidance and commitment, Mrs. Byrd envisions The Black Freeman's Living Historical Farm for Children, Inc. as a major educational center not only in Alabama, but eventually the nation. ♣

A Fond Farewell



This is my last issue as editor of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*. My association with the

Alabama Forestry Commission and this magazine has been a wonderful experience, but it's time to move on.

One of the things I'll miss about my job is the interaction I've had with TREASURE Forest landowners. During my 13 years with the Forestry Commission, I've interviewed and written articles on 29 TREASURE Forest landowners. I've met countless other landowners at meetings and on tours. Without exception, they've treated me with kindness, consideration and made me feel proud of what I do.

Over the years I've receive many compliments on this magazine and it's a great feeling to know that the content is useful and appreciated by the readers, who now number almost 13,000. But there's no way that I can take all the credit. I've had the opportunity to work with numerous people within the Forestry Commission, in other forestry-related agencies and many individuals who are experts in their fields to produce this publication. It was always my objective to make the magazine visually appealing, informative and helpful. I hope that in some small way I succeeded.

I'm proud to have been associated with the Alabama Forestry Commission and *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*.

Thanks, and farewell!

Kim M. Nix

Visit the AFC Web Site: www.forestry.state.al.us

Scalping Aids Survival of Longleaf

By **MARK HAINDS**, Research Coordinator, The Longleaf Alliance

Hundreds of thousands of acres have been planted to longleaf pine over the last five years with millions of dollars being spent on artificial regeneration attempts. While many people have been successful planting longleaf pine, many others have endured planting failures.

Most southeastern universities are only now realizing that the tree that once dominated their natural forests has been virtually eliminated from most of their land base. Large timber companies spend millions annually on loblolly and slash pine research, but a mere pittance on longleaf. Observing this disparity, the Longleaf Alliance immediately recognized a tremendous need for information on practical and economical site preparation and herbaceous release for the successful establishment of longleaf pine.

The Longleaf Alliance was founded in 1995. With two unpaid co-directors and a paid staff of one (we only recently added a second fulltime position), research interests were narrowly focused on areas where the Longleaf Alliance could make a difference in regional restoration and retention efforts. Since a large portion of new longleaf plantings occur in old fields and pastures, we directed much of our energy toward finding good methods of successfully establishing longleaf pine on these agricultural sites.

Contrary to popular belief, it is much easier to establish longleaf pine on cutover sites than in fertile old fields recently removed from row cropping or pasture use. Ag sites have particularly aggressive weed species that are usually not prominent on cutover sites. The additional effects of residual herbicides, fungal pathogens, insect pests, drought, and a wide range of pH's, make old agricultural sites some of the most challenging areas imaginable for longleaf restoration efforts.

Key Factors for Success

Whether the site is a cutover or an agricultural site, observations, research, surveys, and practical experience have demonstrated that a few key factors, if properly addressed, will almost always result in successful longleaf pine plantings.



This tractor is scalping an old field site with a three-point hitch scalper.

1. Apply the proper site preparation prior to planting through mechanical, chemical, or fire-related means.

2. Plant early. Having all your seedlings in the ground before Christmas greatly increases your chances of a successful planting. Good quality container-grown seedlings planted at the Solon Dixon Center in December 2000 had 4 inches of new root growth by mid March 2001. Even if a prolonged drought ensues this summer, these seedlings will probably survive.

3. Plant good quality seedlings. Container-grown seedlings improve your chances of success. However, a good quality bareroot seedling is more desirable than a poor quality container grown seedling. Ask around. The nursery should be able to provide references from tree planters, satisfied landowners, and foresters.

4. Plant the seedlings at the correct

depth. Research conducted by the Longleaf Alliance indicates “deep planting” that covers the terminal bud is severely detrimental to seedling survival and growth.

5. Control competition through the first growing season. Late germinants can be particularly problematical in old fields. Agricultural sites may require two herbaceous releases the first growing season.

Which brings us to the subject of this article: “scalping.” First of all, what is scalping? In this context scalping is a mechanical means of site preparation. Scalping a field means that the upper layer of soil and/or sod is peeled back. Typically, scalping produces a furrow about 2-3 feet in width and 2-4 inches in depth.

Often, scalpers are modified fire plows. Some companies like R.A. Whitfield Manufacturing of Mableton, Georgia, construct implements specifically for scalping. Additionally, some mechanical tree planting machines

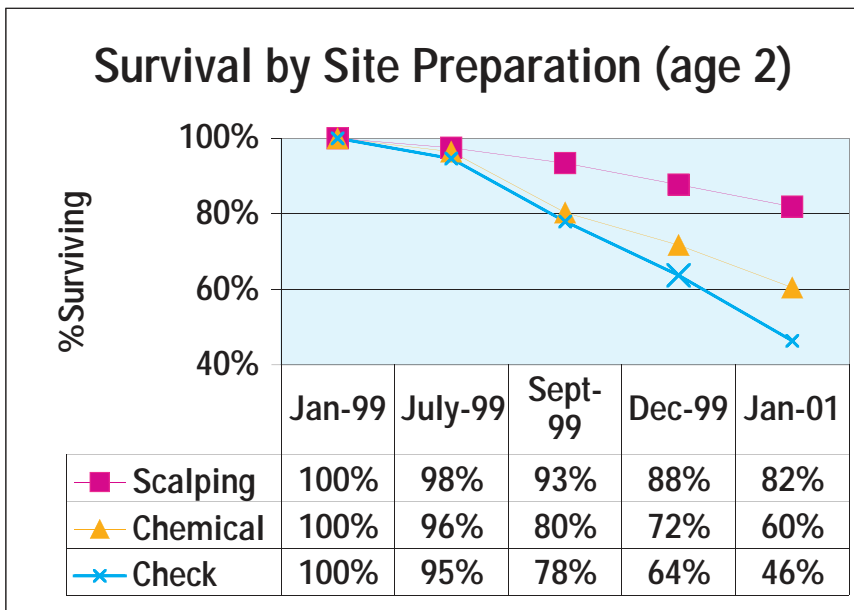
have optional blades mounted in front of the planting machine so that scalping and tree planting are done simultaneously.

Why do we scalp? The objectives of scalping are many, and there are positive and negative aspects of this practice.

The Benefits of Scalping

Researchers with the Florida Division of Forestry and the USDA-Forest Service examined the effects of scalping in the 1990s. They conducted studies with both slash pine and longleaf pine on agricultural sites in five counties in Florida. Their studies conclusively demonstrated that both longleaf pine and slash pine survived at greater rates and grew faster when they were planted on land that had been scalped prior to planting. Scalping outperformed Benomyl root dips, herbaceous release, a disking site preparation, and insecticide applications.

Figure 1



Dr. Barnard and others with the Florida Division of Forestry concluded that scalping is extremely beneficial to newly planted pines. They cited the following benefits of scalping:

- Reduced weed competition
- Improved moisture relations
- Reduced pressure from certain root pathogens
- Reduced insect damage
- Possibly improved planting efficacy

First and foremost, we believe scalping helps control competition during the

first growing season. A scalping site preparation is extremely beneficial for any seedling planted in perennial grasses. Some of the most competitive perennial grasses are Bermuda grass, bahia grass, fescue, and Johnson grass. Rhizomes and root systems from these species are severely reduced or eliminated in the scalping furrow. This allows seedlings to be planted directly into the mineral soil. Seedlings planted in the scalping furrow also have a greater window of competition-free growth if the grasses were not killed by chemical means prior to planting.



The photo on the left shows container grown seedlings that were hand planted after a scalping site prep. The seedlings are 2 1/2 years old. The photo on the right shows the same age seedlings planted following a chemical site prep.



This pasture site was scalped, ripped and planted with the contour. The seedlings are 5 months old.

In recent years, many landowners have planted longleaf on agricultural sites. A typical scenario on these sites unfolds as follows:

1. The site is relatively clean at the time of planting having just come out of peanut, cotton, or corn production.
2. The landowner applies a herbaceous release the spring following planting, usually with Velpar, Oust, Arsenal or some combination thereof.
3. Six to eight weeks later (depending on rainfall and temperatures) a new crop of annual weeds emerges.
4. The seedlings disappear under a green blanket.
5. The seedlings die.

Many people fail to see the benefits of scalping a site that was in row-crop production the year prior to planting. However, we have found that scalping reduces competition even in fields that do not have significant components of perennial grasses. Whether you realize it or not, there is a time bomb lying in these old fields. In this case, the time bomb is the seed-bank of late germinant grasses and broadleaves.

Through scalping, we peel back the upper layer of soil where a large portion of the annual weed seed bank resides. By removing this seed bank, we greatly reduce the number of weeds that will

Scalping

Continued from page 25

germinate in the area immediately surrounding the newly planted seedling. By reducing late germinant competition, a single herbaceous release will frequently afford season-long weed control.

To be successful in these old fields and pastures, new seedlings require one season of good competition control. Scalping combined with the proper herbaceous release will usually yield this result.

Comparing Site Preparations

The Longleaf Alliance installed a study in 1998 to compare scalping, broadcast chemical, and no site preparation methods. We also applied 11 different herbaceous releases over these three site preparations to see if there were specific combinations of site preparation and herbaceous releases that would yield good survival and growth of planted longleaf pine seedlings.

This study was installed near the small community of Dixie in Lower Alabama. The study site was an old pecan orchard that was leveled by Hurricane Opal in 1995. Subsequently, the study site was logged, piled, and burned in 1996 and 1997. The site has typical sandy loam or loamy sand coastal plains soils.

The three methods of site preparation were:

1. **Chemical Site Preparation.** The chemical site prep plots were sprayed with 3 quarts of Roundup Ultra® and 6 ounces of Arsenal® on November 14th, 1998. At planting time (Jan. 12) the chemically treated plots were uniformly brown with little or no live herbaceous growth remaining. These plots were ripped/sub-soiled in December.

2. **Scalping Site Preparation.** Plots so designated were scalped in early December 1998. Following scalping, all plots were sub-soiled.

3. **Check (no site prep)** Plots. These plots were sub-soiled only.

All plots were hand planted on January 11, 1999. Seedlings were grown in containers 6 inches in depth and approximately 6 cubic inches in volume. Seedlings were culled through prior to planting to ensure that only good quality

Table 2

Seedlings Starting Height Growth at Age 2 Planting Density 500 Trees per Acre

Herbaceous Release	Scalping Site Prep	Chemical Site Prep	No Site Prep
Check	187	25	12
Velpar DF (10.67) & Oust (2)	325	212	125
Oust (2)	362	200	81
Arsenal (4) Oust (2) pre-emergent	356	187	50
Arsenal (4) Oust (2) post-emergent	293	231	93
Atrazine (64)	350	94	87
Atrazine (64) & Oust (2)	244	237	75
Oust (2 pre) & Arsenal (4 oz post)	381	169	156
Fusilade 24 oz in April & May	150	144	12
Velpar DF (21.34 oz) = 1lb AI	300	150	50
Velpar DF (10.67 oz) = 1/2 lb AI	319	175	50
Average of all 11 treatments	297	166	72

seedlings were utilized in this study.

Eleven different herbaceous release treatments were applied on top of the different site preparations. Pre-emergent/early emergent herbaceous releases were sprayed on 4/7/99. Tank-mixes were applied in a 6-inch band. Post-emergent applications were made on 5/12/99 with the same equipment.

How did the seedlings respond to the different site preparations and herbaceous releases? One treatment stood out at age one: the scalping site preparation. By age two, differences in survival had dramatically widened between the various site preparations. Figure 1 illustrates seedling survival at age two with the various site preparations.

Some combinations of site preparation and herbaceous release were exceptionally effective. In this study, seedlings planted on scalped plots and released with Oust®, Oust and Velpar®, or Oust and Arsenal® yielded the best survival and growth. For instance, seedlings planted on scalped plots that were released with 2 ounces of Oust in April and 4 ounces of Arsenal in May, averaged 93 percent survival at age 2 with 82 percent of surviving seedlings initiating height growth.

Regardless of the herbaceous release applied, seedlings performed best on plots that were scalped prior to planting.

For comparison, the Table 2 shows how many seedlings would be starting height growth at age 2, based upon a planting density of 500 trees/per/acre and the seedling responses observed in this study.

In simple terms, roughly twice as many seedlings started height growth at age 2 on plots that were scalped compared to chemical site preparation plots. Depending on which herbaceous release was utilized, it is possible to have four times as many seedlings initiating height growth at age 2 following scalping, compared to areas that were not site prepared.

In certain circumstances, it is still wise to do a chemical site preparation. Anywhere Bermuda grass is present or the goal is to convert a pasture site back to native vegetation, it is still strongly recommended that the site be chemically site prepared prior to planting. Don't stop with the chemical site prep! It is well worth a few extra dollars to follow a chemical site preparation with scalping. No other treatment is as effective before or after planting your tree seedlings.



Planting longleaf pine at the correct depth is extremely important on scalped sites. The Longleaf Alliance recommends that longleaf seedlings be planted approximately 1/2-1 inch shallower in scalped rows. It is preferable to have the terminal bud at least 1/2-1 inch above the soil surface at the time of planting. In some cases, this means the plug will be exposed at the time of planting. The photo on the left shows the results of planting too deep; the seedling on the right was planted at the correct depth.

The Negatives of Scalping

As with all forestry practices, there are potential negatives to scalping. The major negative associated with scalping is the potential for increased erosion. It is critical that scalping, ripping/sub-soiling, and mechanical tree planting follow the contour of the land. Otherwise, there will be an unacceptable amount of erosion.

There is a strong likelihood that seedlings planted in scalped rows will end up exposed or buried if any of the following happens:

- The scalping site preparation is too deep.
- The scalped rows do not have time to settle prior to planting.
- Scalping is not done with the contour of the land.
- Seedlings are planted at the usual planting depth in the scalped rows.

For best results, scalp and rip the site several months prior to planting. The more rainfall prior to planting the more the site will settle out, and therefore less erosion will take place after planting.

Never plant directly in the rip. Instead, plant a few inches to the side of the rip on the “shoulder” of the scalped row. Mechanical tree planting is a viable option on some sites, especially with bareroot seedlings. However, we have had better luck hand-planting container-

grown seedlings on our sites.

Plant shallow! One of the leading causes of longleaf planting failures is deep planting. If the terminal bud is covered the spring following planting, the seedling will probably die. Deep planted seedlings that do survive languish in the grass stage for years and years while surrounding seedlings planted at the correct depth put on three feet or more height growth a year.

On most sites, soil moves away from newly planted tree seedlings. In scalped rows, the soil moves onto the seedling. For this reason, it is recommended that longleaf seedlings be planted approximately 1/2-1 inch shallower in scalped rows. It is preferable to have the terminal bud at least 1/2-1 inch above the soil surface at the time of planting. In some cases, this means the plug will be exposed at the time of planting. In another study conducted by the Longleaf Alliance, seedlings planted with the plug 1/2-inch above the soil surface in scalped rows survived and grew better than those planted with the plug covered. The consequences of planting too deep far outweigh the perceived negatives of shallow planting.


An ideally planted seedling will have the plug slightly covered, and the terminal bud exposed the spring following planting. If the terminal bud is covered,

the seedling is too deep. With most sites, you may want to consider planting the seedlings with the plug at or slightly above (1/4-1/2 inch) the soil surface.

Recap

We recommend a scalping site preparation when attempting to establish any tree species on agricultural sites, whether the site was in pasture or cultivation, the only exception being sites with excessive slope where erosion is likely.

Ensure that scalping is done with the contour and scalp several months prior to planting. Scalp as shallow as possible. On cultivated fields, 2-3 inches in depth should be sufficient. Where a sod is present, it may be necessary to scalp 4-5 inches deep to remove the rhizomes and root systems of perennial grasses.

Plant longleaf seedlings shallow in scalped rows. Never plant directly in a ripped furrow. It is usually advantageous to plant on the shoulder of the scalped row rather than in the lowest point where flowing water may uncover or bury newly planted seedlings. Other tree seedlings may be planted at their normal depth in scalped rows. Follow up with a herbaceous release. For the results of two herbicide screening trials and comparisons of different site preparation methods, contact the Longleaf Alliance at 334-222-7779; email: LLA@alaweb.com. 

Bama Soil

The Official State Soil of Alabama

By **JULIE A. BEST**, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Auburn, AL

A bird, a flower, a tree—and also a soil! Alabama has an official state soil to go along with her other official emblems and symbols. A state soil is represented by a soil series that has special significance to a particular state.

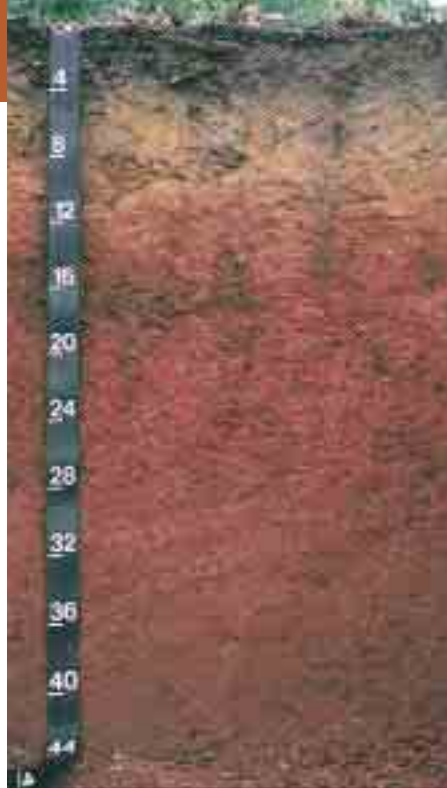
Alabama's State Soil is Bama Soil

Soil of the Bama series is the official state soil of Alabama. Bama soils occur in 26 counties in Alabama on more than 360,000 acres in the state, mainly in the western and central part of the state, paralleling major river systems. Bama soils are well drained, have desirable physical properties, and are located on high positions of the landscape. These characteristics make them well suited to most agricultural and urban uses. They are well suited to cultivated crops, pasture, hay, and woodland. Cotton and corn are the principal cultivated crops grown on these soils.

A soil series is a naturally occurring entity on the landscape. Therefore, a given series does not necessarily occur within the confines of only one state. Bama soil occurs in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Virginia.

How is a Soil Series Named?

Areas with similar soils are grouped and labeled as soil series because their similar origins and chemical and physical properties cause the soils to “behave” similarly for land use purposes. The names of soil series, as a rule, are abstract place names. The name is generally taken from a place near the one where the series was first recognized. It

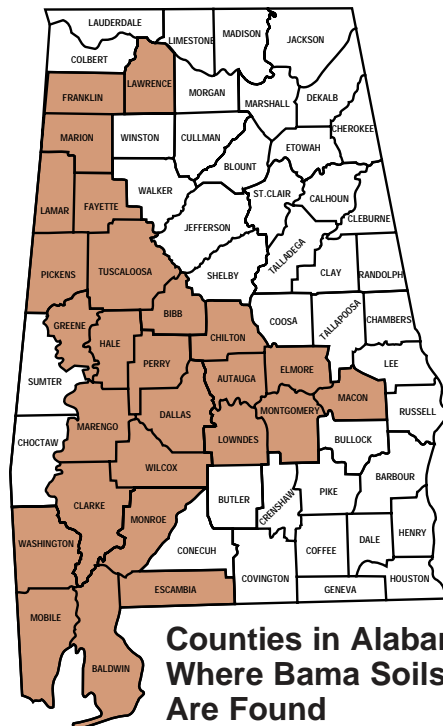


may be the name of a town, a county, or some local feature. Examples of soil series in Alabama that fall within this category include Dothan, Decatur, Greenville, and Hartselle soils. On the other hand, some series have coined names. The series name “Bama” is a coined name derived from our state name, Alabama and the Alabama River. The name was proposed for a group of soils first recognized in Mobile County in 1973. The word “Bama” is widely used and accepted as the short name of our great state and is, therefore, an appropriate name for a soil selected to represent the soils of the state.

How Was the Selection Made?

In order to identify a specific soil to represent the state soil of Alabama, the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Alabama (PSCAA) established a committee to look at the numerous options. The PSCAA is an organization of soil scientists representing the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and private industry. The committee developed a minimum-criteria list that a soil should meet before being considered as the Alabama state soil. The criteria used included:

- Series type location in Alabama
- Extensive acreage mapped, or mapped in a large number of counties
- A productive soil (row crop and timber)
- Prime farmland
- Distinctive appearance



Counties in Alabama Where Bama Soils Are Found

- Name recognition
- Well suited to multiple use

After careful consideration, soil of the Bama series was selected for Alabama's state soil.

How Was Bama Soil Established as an Official Symbol?

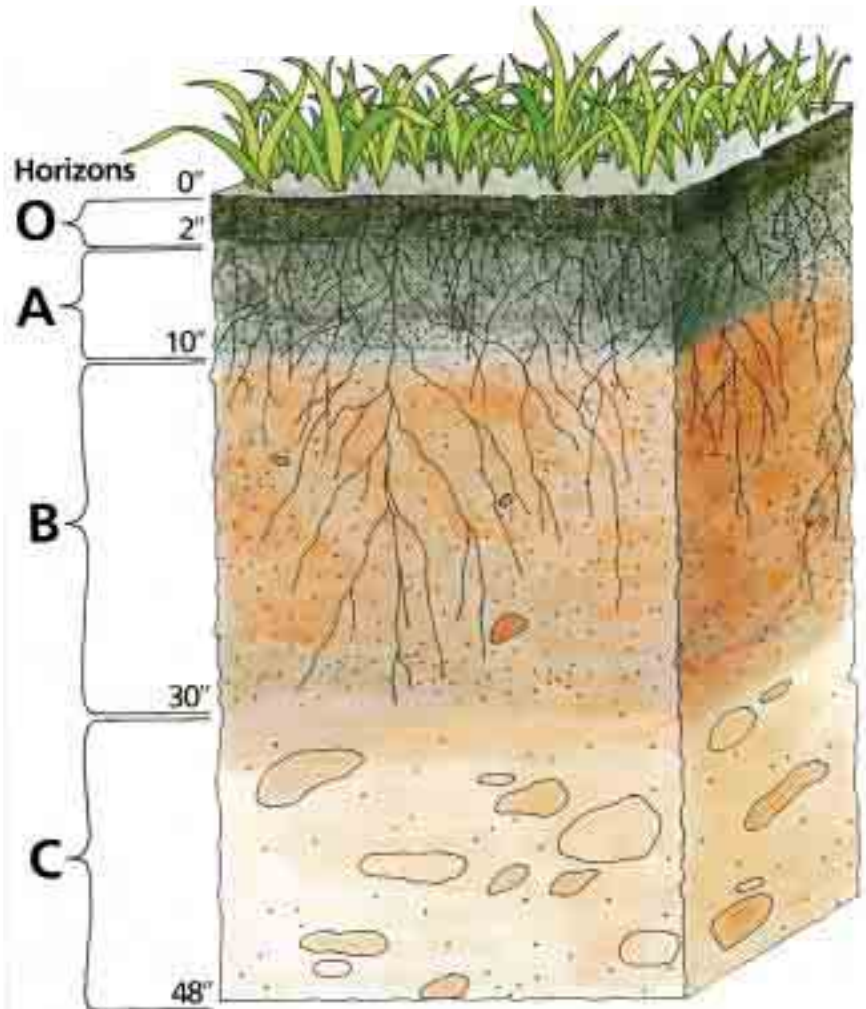
A legislative procedure is required to make an icon an official symbol. The Alabama Legislature adopted a resolution on April 22, 1997, which formally designated the Bama series as the official state soil. The resolution was sponsored by Senator Ted Little and Representative Pete Turnham of Auburn at the request of PSCAA.

What is a Soil Profile?

A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. Each soil series consists of soils having major horizons that are similar in color, texture, structure, reaction, consistency, mineral and chemical composition, and arrangement in the soil profile. The soil profile extends from the surface downward to bedrock or other relatively unaltered earthy materials. Most soils have three major layers—the surface layer, the subsoil, and the substratum. The surface layer (A or Ap horizon) is the uppermost layer and is the soil ordinarily moved in tillage, or its equivalent in uncultivated soil. It usually has a darker color, more organic matter, and less clay than the subsoil. The subsoil (B horizon) is usually lighter colored, denser, and lower in organic matter than the surface layer. It is the layer where leached materials, such as clay, iron, carbonates, or silica have accumulated. The substratum (C horizon) is the material in which the soil is forming, or the parent material. It may consist of organic materials, unconsolidated mineral sediments, or weathered bedrock. Each of the major layers may be subdivided into horizons differing in color, texture, or other soil property. Undisturbed soil will have an O horizon. It consists of leaf litter and other organic material lying on the surface of the soil. This layer is not present in cultivated fields.

A typical profile of the Bama soil consists of a layer of dark brown fine sandy

A Soil Profile



loam topsoil about five inches thick; a subsurface layer of pale brown fine sandy loam about six inches thick; and a subsoil of red clay loam and sandy clay loam to a depth of 60 inches or more.

What is the Purpose of Symbols?

One of the purposes of emblems and symbols is to serve as a reminder of the significance of the object that they represent. Having an official state soil will call attention to one of our most valuable natural resources—soil. The symbol will provide a visible acknowledgment of our appreciation of this resource. Adoption of the Bama soil as Alabama's state soil

will allow for its inclusion on Alabama highway maps, in textbooks, and in other official state documents, thereby increasing the awareness of the importance of soil in our environment.

Soil—it's more than dirt. As the natural medium for the growth of land plants and the support for buildings and roads, it is a coveted natural resource. Soil is one of Alabama's most important natural resources. It is vital to agriculture and forestry as well as to urban development, water quality, and wildlife habitat. And now, soils of the Bama series will serve as a reminder of the significance that soil plays in the everyday life of Alabama residents. 🌱

Auburn to Host 2001 Landowner Conference

The Eighteenth Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference will be held in Auburn on October 25-26, 2001. The Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center will be the venue for the indoor portion of the conference.

A \$55 registration fee will include all events: a landowner tour, banquet, indoor sessions and luncheon. Registration will start at 10 a.m. on October 25 in the lobby the conference center.

The first event will be a tour of the Raymond Newman TREASURE Forest in Lee County, which provides an excellent example of multiple-use forestland management. Buses will begin leaving from the parking area of the AU Dixon Conference Center at 12 noon on Thursday, October 25. Participants should eat lunch beforehand or bring a sack lunch to eat on the bus. Mr. Newman's management objectives are wildlife and timber. The bus tour will show off many aspects of his property, which has been a certified TREASURE Forest for more than 20 years.

The tour will include stops on wildlife, pond management and timber marketing. Mr. Newman actively manages for deer, turkey, dove and quail. Some of the hunting rights to his property are leased to the Realtree® camouflage clothing company. They tape celebrity hunts for use on their television

show and videos. Mr. Newman also employs a full-time wildlife biologist for the property. During the stop on pond management, a seining demonstration will take place. In addition, there will be outdoor displays from natural resources related vendors.



A banquet on Thursday night will honor some outstanding TREASURE Forest landowners and county forestry planning committees. It will begin at

6:45 p.m. in the AU Dixon Conference Center. A dessert social will be held after the banquet so attendees can have an opportunity to congratulate the award winners.

Indoor technical sessions will take place on Friday morning. Participants will be able to choose four of six sessions, which include the following topics:


- What the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Means to Alabama Landowners
- Wildlife Habitat Management for Food Sources
- Forestry Road Design and Construction
- Forest Management Strategies for Landowners
- Softwood Lumber Markets
- Developing a Fully Integrated Management Plan

Landowners may earn credits for the Forest Masters program by attending the indoor sessions and the tour.

A luncheon hosted by the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association will end the conference on Friday.

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association will also be conducting its annual silent auction during the conference. Bids will be received all day Thursday and up until the luncheon on Friday. Items to be auctioned will include handmade crafts and forestry-related items. If you have an item you would like to donate for the auction, contact Joan Malone at 251-442-2424. Proceeds from the silent auction go towards the ATFA's educational programs.

Some exhibit space is also available. Call Tom Counts at 205-489-5111 for more information, or e-mail him at tcounts@fs.fed.us.

Please register early by using the form on page 31. Registration after the cutoff date of October 15 is \$65, and no refunds will be given after October 18. For more information about registration call Fran Whitaker at 334-265-8733. 

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Are you receiving *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* at the correct address? If not, please complete this form and return to:
Alabama's TREASURED Forests Magazine, P.O. Box 302550, Montgomery, AL 36130-2550

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Eighteenth Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference

Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center
Auburn, Alabama • October 25-26, 2001

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) of Attendee(s):

#1 _____
 #2 _____
 #3 _____
 #4 _____

Will Attend Tour on Thurs.:

Yes No
 Yes No
 Yes No
 Yes No

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Bus transportation will be provided for the tour. No personal vehicles can be driven.

CATEGORY(IES) OF ATTENDEES (Check one category only) Total # attending Thursday's tour _____

#1	#2	#3	#4	
___	___	___	___	TREASURE Forest Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency/TREASURE Forest Landowner
___	___	___	___	Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency/Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency
___	___	___	___	Private Forest Industry/Consultant
___	___	___	___	Other

I am attending the conference and enclosing:

\$55 preregistration x _____ attendee(s) =\$ _____

NOTE: Registration includes tour and banquet on Thursday; indoor sessions and luncheon on Friday.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

- **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the lobby of the AU Dixon Conference Center.
- **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Buses will depart for the tour at 12 p.m. from the parking lot of the AU Dixon Conference Center. Lunch is on your own, or you may bring a sack lunch to eat on the bus. **Please dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes.** Buses will return to the hotel in time to change clothes for the banquet that evening.
- **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Banquet begins at 6:45 p.m., followed by a dessert social to honor award winners.
- **Friday, Oct. 26:** Indoor sessions begin at 8 a.m.; a separate agenda will list meeting rooms and session topics.
- **Friday, Oct. 26:** Luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m.
- **Exhibit space** is available. Contact Tom Counts at 205-489-5111, e-mail: tcounts@fs.fed.us, for more information.
- **Preregistration fee for the conference per person if postmarked by October 15 is \$55.**
- Registration fee for the conference after October 15 is \$65.
- **No refunds will be made after October 18.**
- Mail upper portion of form and fee payable to Alabama Forestry Conference to:

Fran Whitaker, Alabama Forestry Association, 555 Alabama St., Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-265-8733 Fax: 334-262-1258

HOTEL INFORMATION

- The Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center is offering a special room rate of \$77.
- *Please specify that you are attending the TREASURE Forest Conference when you make reservations.*
- Blocks of rooms will be held until the cutoff date of September 23, 2001.

Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center
241 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36830
334-821-8200 or 1-800-2-AUBURN

Red Buckeye

By **TILDA MIMS**, Information Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

The red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) is an attractive small tree native to the southeastern United States, from Virginia to Florida to Louisiana. The red buckeye typically grows 10 to 15 feet in height, rarely more than 25 feet. It prefers rich soil and partial shade. Its dark green leaves appear early in spring and are shed after yellowing in late summer or fall.

Its fruits have hard leathery husks that split into three parts to release one to three glossy brown, inedible nuts called “buckeyes.” The name refers to the resemblance of the nut, which has a pale patch on a shiny red background, to the eye of a deer.

A glycoside—aesculin—in the sprout, young leaves and mature seed of the tree make both fruits and leaves poisonous if eaten. Wildlife largely ignores the seeds; however, livestock are frequently affected.

A renewed interest in planting native species in residential settings, called “naturescaping,” has brought the red buckeye new popularity as an ornamental tree. Their handsome candelabra-like flower clusters are a magnet for hummingbirds during April and May, and are gaining popularity for butterfly gardens. Their compact size makes them very suitable for planting under and around utility lines as well.



Spring or fall are the best times to plant buckeyes. These trees flourish in deep, fertile, moist soil that is slightly acidic. They should be planted in a sunny or lightly shaded location. Seeds can be sown outdoors as soon as they are ripe or they may be stratified and sown in the spring.

Cultivars with more intense red flower color and habit that is more prostrate are available but are difficult to locate. The native plant can easily develop a more uniform shape by pruning in late winter and early spring to thin crowded branches and shorten any that are too long.

The wood of a red buckeye is clean and white if cut when the sap is down in the winter; however, it is not strong or durable when exposed, so it is used mainly for toys and other minor necessities.

In the late 1800s, the red buckeye was revered for a variety of uses around the house. *The King's American Dispensatory, 1898*, quotes F. Peyre Porcher, M.D.: “The roots of the *Aesculus pavia* were preferred to soap for cleansing and whitening blankets, woolen goods, colored cottons, and satins. The fresh nut was made into a paste with flour, and also the bruised twigs of the shrub, were used in the swamps to stupefy fish, so as to cause them to float that they might readily be taken. The decoction of the nuts was recommended as a topical application to gangrene, and a strong decoction of the root held in the mouth was reputed a cure for toothache.”

Whatever your use for a red buckeye, medical miracle or landscape plant, remember this Southern beauty has legendary powers. Many old-timers and not-so-old-timers believe the fruit of the red buckeye will bring its owner good luck all year around. It is a legendary protector against arthritis when carried in one's pocket and, if you carry one in your right-hand pocket, you will always be lucky with cards. ♣