

ALABAMA'S

TREASURED

FORESTS

WINTER 2001

Current Use Taxes
Log Cabin Restoration
Hardwood Regeneration
Discovering Historical Sites



DON SIEGELMAN
Governor, State of Alabama



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

Recently I officially opened Alabama's Hunting and Fishing Trail for People with Physical Disabilities. This is the first trail in the nation to provide a network of hunting, fishing and sport shooting to accommodate people with physical disabilities. The trail consists of 39 sites that have been modified to accommodate people with physical disabilities. There are 12 hunting sites, seven sport shooting sites and 20 fishing sites.

Alabama has an incredibly rich history of institutions and organizations that provide access and opportunity to individuals with physical challenges. By establishing this trail, we continue this proud legacy by making Alabama's natural heritage and natural beauty accessible to all Alabamians regardless of their physical capabilities.

I want to thank the businesses and landowners that have joined with the state to create this unique trail, and I challenge others to join with us as we plan to expand this trail in the coming months and years.

I recently visited three of sites on the trail: the USA Foundation Hunting Area in Mobile, which is designated for hunting, Walker County Public Lake near Jasper, which is designated for fishing, and the Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area in Limestone County, which is designated for sport shooting. Two properties owned by the Alabama Forestry Commission, Little River State Forest and Macon County Forest, are part of the trail. All provide excellent opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy outdoor recreational activities.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources developed the trail in partnership with a broad range of private sponsors. For more information on Alabama's Hunting and Fishing Trail for People with Disabilities, contact the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at (334) 242-3465.

As we begin 2001, I'd like to reflect on just a few of the accomplishments of the Alabama Forestry Commission over the past year.

The continued drought placed a heavy demand on the Forestry Commission's firefighting resources in 2000. During the fiscal year we responded to 6,437 wildfires that burned 87,441 acres. This extremely critical fire situation was handled in a professional and efficient manner with the assistance of the state's 988 volunteer fire departments and our other cooperators.

The drought also contributed to the Southern Pine Beetle epidemic faced by the state last fiscal year. Alabama had a record 24,465 spots containing 1,438,100 infested trees. The Forestry Commission will be monitoring pine beetle outbreaks through aerial detection as usual this year. I urge landowners to keep a close watch on their pine stands and control spots as soon as they are detected.

Providing technical assistance to forest landowners is a high priority for our agency. Last year 152 new TREASURE Forests were certified. Currently 1,541 families are managing 1.79 million acres under this program.

The E.A. Hauss Nursery in Atmore grew 37.5 million seedlings last year. Twenty-one different species or varieties of hardwood and wildlife seedlings, as well as loblolly, slash and longleaf pine were grown.

The AFC now has an outreach coordinator in each of our four regions. They are concentrating on making contacts with underserved landowners. This is one way our agency is making sure that all landowners have access to information about our programs. Read more about our outreach program on page 27.

I am extremely proud of my teammates within the Alabama Forestry Commission. We have made significant contributions to the quality of life for Alabama's citizens through our achievements in forestry. Our associates continue to handle their responsibilities with efficiency and professionalism. The Forestry Commission maintains an office in each of Alabama's 67 counties. If you need forestry assistance, please contact our personnel one of these offices.

ALABAMA'S
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Vol. XX, No. 1

Winter 2001

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

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COVER: Many TREASURE Forest landowners have log cabins or houses on their property like this one owned by Shelby County TREASURE Forest landowners Mike and Cathy Strong. Read more about how to restore log cabins on pages 24-26. Photo by Tilda Mims.

Alabama's TREASURED Forests (ISSN 0894-9654) is published quarterly by the Alabama Forestry Commission, 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130. Telephone (334) 240-9355. Bulk rate postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Alabama's TREASURED Forests, P.O. Box 302550, Montgomery, AL 36130-2550.

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Steedley Farm: Four Generations of Stewardship

By TILDA MIMS, Forest Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

Kaye Steedley's great-grandparents were among the first settlers to make their home in the Lamar County town of Millport. When they arrived from South Carolina, they found a true land of opportunity in rich clear streams, healthy forests and productive soil.

The land was good to them, providing logs for homes, fertile soil for crops and abundant wildlife to help feed growing children. In return, they practiced wise stewardship and taught their children and grandchildren to love the land, to protect it and make it productive.

Kaye and L.C. met on their first teaching assignments in Choctaw County. They soon became engaged and when discussing their future, they planned to one day own a small farm with a few cattle and a garden. Only a few months into their marriage, Kaye's maternal grandmother needed to sell her

78-acre home place and the young couple could see the promise of a fulfilled dream. "We really didn't have the money

to buy it, but we stepped out on faith," Kaye said. "I was the only grandchild interested in buying it. I had many won-



Regular burnings and thinnings have promoted excellent growth in pine stands.



L.C. and Kaye raised wild turkeys last summer after their mother was killed.



The surviving juveniles were released onto the farm.



Deer often browse near the Steedley's front yard.

derful memories of spending time with my grandmother on the farm and I wanted to have it for my family." They worked on the place during visits home until they moved back to Millport in 1965. Throughout their marriage they purchased adjoining land, and today have the rare distinction of owning more than 400 acres of forestland handed down through several generations on both sides of Kay's family. They own third generation land on her maternal grandmother's side, which includes her mother's child-

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Kay's sunflower garden, planted to attract birds and other animals, often attracts people from the nearby community who marvel at the beautiful flowers.

hood home, and fourth generation land on her father's side. They are following her ancestor's example of true stewardship by devoting their time and resources to preserving much of its history while ensuring its place in the future of Alabama's forests.

The management objectives for Steedley Farm are economically productive timber management that provides an ample wildlife habitat for both game and non-game species.

Timber Management

High-grading was a common practice in the South in the early 1900s and it had yielded poorly stocked timber throughout the Steedley's property. After consultation with Dan Lassetter and Harold Jordan of the Alabama Forestry Commission, they decided to clearcut and regenerate to a more productive loblolly pine. The regenerated area was chemically site prepared and replanted with superior loblolly pine seedlings.

Continued on page 6

The pine plantations are on a 30- to 35-year rotation until harvest. Regular thinnings are scheduled at 15 years and on an as needed basis until the final harvesting. The Steedleys purchased pruning saws and, using knowledge gained from a forestry short course, pruned the remaining trees themselves. A regular prescribed burning program every three years has reduced fuel and encouraged a healthy wildlife population.

The acreage now boasts 187 acres of planted pine flourishing under careful management and excellent site selection. The additional 70 acres of hardwood and pine/hardwood mixed stands prevents erosion along drains and provides wildlife habitat.

Wildlife Management

Steedley Farm is a haven for wildlife. They have made a special effort to provide as much natural forage and shelter for the animals as possible, rather than relying on artificial means. Several miles of permanent firelanes and about two miles of access roads are maintained to prevent erosion and to serve as linear wildlife openings for deer and ground-nesting birds. Bahia, rye and clover have been planted on roads and firelanes to prevent erosion and as wildlife foods. Windrows have been retained for habitat enhancement.

Nine wildlife food plots totaling 11 acres are generously scattered around the acreage. The food plots, targeted for win-



Excellent roads make for easy travel throughout the farm.

ter grazing, include Ladino clover, rye grass, wheat, oats, corn bicolor and chufas. L.C. limes the food plots so the soil can make better use of the fertilizer they apply.

Permanent food plots also include apple trees, peach trees and sawtooth oaks. In the last two years, 24 fruit trees and 10 berry bushes were added as an orchard for deer and other wildlife. Six supplemental salt licks for whitetail deer have been on the property for more than 25 years. More than 200 acres of mixed hardwood stands are essentially left in their natural state for wildlife.

Steedley Farm has a 20-acre wetland area, two wildlife watering holes exclusively for the benefit of wildlife and a two-acre pond for recreation is stocked with catfish.

Thirty Eastern bluebird boxes were cleaned out last winter and they discovered that nesting birds had used all but

two of them. Two wood duck boxes revealed 36 eggs. Squirrel feeders, a butterfly/hummingbird garden, and one-half acre planted in wildflowers are maintained for game and non-game species.

A certified falconer completing graduate work in falconry selected Steedley Farm as the location for release of a red-tailed hawk that had been under medical care for more than 12 months. The edge effect around 84 acres of pastureland offered irregular edges, making their farm an ideal location for the protected species to be reintroduced to the wild. The 18-month-old bird, named “Chipper” for Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves, remains in the area and is frequently seen hunting along the periphery of the clearings.

As retired educators, the couple enjoys the opportunity to host forestry field days for adults and children. One of their favorite activities is hosting the Lamar County Forestry Judging and Soils Judging contests each year.

L.C. and Kaye are very active in the award-winning Lamar County Forestry Planning Committee, serving on committees responsible for the forestry short course, Arbor Week observances and FAWN. They are also charter members of the Lamar County Chapter of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

They say they have been blessed with good health in their retirement and are looking forward to many more years of working side by side on their TREASURE Forest. From the first piece of property purchased in 1963 to a recent purchase in 2000, the Steedleys are piecing together a truly unique family TREASURE Forest. 🏡



L.C. and Kaye enjoyed the 2000 Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference with daughters Jan and Nan.

LAND OWNERS

LEGISLATIVE • ALERT

By **JAY JENSEN**, Washington Office, National Association of State Foresters

On October 11, President Clinton signed the Interior appropriations bill into law finalizing State & Private Forestry program funding for fiscal year 2001. The \$18.8 billion measure includes over \$368 million for S&PF, the highest level of spending in the last five years for the federal programs the state foresters implement. This large increase is thanks in large part to lawmakers' response to this season's wildfires and desire to pass a conservation package similar to the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and the Administration's Lands Legacy Initiative.

Although \$118 million of this S&PF increase is considered emergency spending, or one-time spending, the overall increases begin to reflect the investment needed to properly represent the public's interest in nonfederal forestlands. These emergency monies are intended to help states respond and prepare for future wildland fire situations.

Forest Health

The Forest Health line items (federal and cooperative lands forest health management) jumped nearly \$16 million bringing funding totals to \$76.444 million. An extra \$12 million was added through one-time emergency funding to help address forest health threats stemming from the western fires.

Cooperative Fire

The cooperative fire line items (state and volunteer fire assistance) received the largest increase thanks to the emergency money booster. The normal appropriations resulted in a modest \$2 million increase for the two programs with the

volunteer fire assistance program serving as the primary beneficiary as lawmakers begin to take note of the contributions volunteer firefighters make to initial suppression of wildland fires. However, emergency monies totaled \$58.774 million, meaning that state forestry agencies will be better able to clean up and respond to wildland fire threats. Overall, cooperative fire programs will see at least \$88 million coming their way.

Cooperative Forestry

Cooperative forestry programs all fared well with the Forest Legacy program distancing itself from the pack with an increase of \$35 million over last year thanks to the Conservation and Reinvestment Act and the Lands Legacy Initiative. Although the Stewardship Incentives Program was again zeroed out, failing to capture any Congressional support, the Forest Stewardship and Urban & Community Forestry programs received decent increases for their work in the rural and urban forest landscape. Although the Economic Action Programs were again heavily earmarked this year, an extra \$12.5 million in emergency money is slotted to help local communities impacted by the wildfires recover faster. Although the NASF water quality line item, better known as the Watershed Forestry Initiative, did not receive funding, state foresters are actively working and making progress to get this included in future years.

One of the more interesting inclusions in this year's spending bill is the \$35 million provided for "Community and Private Land Fire Assistance." These are new funds, directed to be allocated through the S&PF account, for recovery

activities on private lands affected by this year's western wildfires. Conference language directs this money "primarily" to the west. The state foresters are working closely with the USDA Forest Service to help direct the expenditure of these flexible funds to ensure their most efficient and appropriate application.

Forest Inventory and Analysis

If there is a downside to this year's funding levels, it is that adequate funding for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program was unable to be obtained. However, Congress did provide \$5 million to assist state forestry agencies in the implementation of annualized inventory, but that will still leave the overall program behind schedule. An appropriation increase of \$8 million annually for the next three years will keep the program on track according to the FIA business plan.

Forestry Incentives Program

Congress also completed action on the Agriculture Appropriations bill in mid-October. The agriculture spending bill contains a number of forest landowner assistance/outreach programs and forestry research programs. Primary on that list is the Forestry Incentives Program, which continues to limp along at a continuing \$6.325 million for FY 2001. Along with the Stewardship Incentives Program, the state foresters hope to craft a new forest landowner cost-share assistance program out of FIP that will capture the components of both programs in the 2002 Farm Bill. 🏠

Visit the Alabama Forestry Commission Web Page:
www.forestry.state.al.us

Hardwood Management in a Nutshell

By TIM ALBRITTON, Forest Operations Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Upland Hardwood Silviculture Training Workshop in Asheville, North Carolina, at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest. The workshop was an intensive one-week session that focused on the essential skills needed to develop technically sound silvicultural prescriptions. The training covered a wide range of areas including forest site classification, intermediate stand management, hardwood ecology and regeneration, and low quality hardwood stand management, just to name a few.

Dr. David Loftis, Project Leader at Bent Creek, along with the rest of the staff, has studied hardwoods for decades. Most of Dr. Loftis' career has been spent studying oak management in the Southern Appalachian Forest. I wish I could summarize everything he and his staff have done and put it into a nice neat article, but that is just not possible. That would be like me trying to give you a towering oak tree; it just can't be done. But, I can give you an acorn and you can

grow your own towering oak. With that goal in mind, I will try to hit some of the highlights, and I hope that in doing so, you can understand hardwood management in a nut shell.

Alabama's Hardwoods

Alabama's hardwood forests are a valuable resource in many ways. They obviously supply a growing hardwood industry with the raw material to manufacture hundreds of forest products. They also provide food for wildlife, nesting for birds and other tree-dwelling creatures, beauty, fall color, and much more. The latest forest inventory indicated that hardwood growth increased by 52 percent over a period from 1982 to 1990. Nearly half of Alabama's commercial forests are comprised of hardwoods (approximately 10 million acres).

Alabama's forests are 95 percent privately owned. Proper management is critical to the continued sustainability of this valuable resource. The Alabama

Forestry Commission stands ready to assist landowners with management decisions, but all too often we are called in to give advice on regeneration options after a stand has been harvested. Much more planning is required if successful oak regeneration is desired.

Successful Oak Regeneration

If you own some upland hardwood timber and oak is a part of the species mix, you probably want to maintain it. There are several key things you can do to help maintain oaks after a harvest. One key element needed for successful oak regeneration is the presence of advanced oak reproduction. Natural regeneration after a harvest cut comes from new seedlings established at or after the time of the harvest cut, from older seedlings established prior to the harvest cut (advanced reproduction), and from sprouts from stumps or roots of the harvest trees.



This swamp chestnut oak is a good example of advanced regeneration present in a forest stand. This advanced regeneration is possible because of increased sunlight, which is the result of an adjacent clearcut four years ago.



No sunlight means no advanced oak regeneration. Shade tolerant species will be dominant.

The most reliable source of reproduction in oaks is the advance reproduction. You can assess your advanced reproduction by simply walking through your hardwood stand and looking for sapling size oaks in the understory. The larger the sapling (usually 1.5-2.0 inches in diameter), the greater the probability the tree will make it to the next stand.

If you don't have a sufficient number of advanced regeneration trees, you should not plan an overstory cut. Studies

Understanding the delicate balance between too little sunlight and too much sunlight is a key in manipulating oak regeneration.

have shown that hardwood stands can be manipulated to improve the advance regeneration, thereby improving the chances of maintaining an oak component in the next stand. This can be done by using herbicides to kill the competing understory—usually dogwood, red maple, and other shade tolerant species. The improved condition created by this treatment, mainly the increase in sunlight, stimulates the growth of established oak advance reproduction.

Understanding the delicate balance between too little sunlight and too much sunlight is a key in manipulating oak regeneration. If you thin or open up a stand too much, the amount of sunlight triggers the reproduction and growth of yellow poplar, sweetgum and other species that out-compete oaks. A mature hardwood stand left in a closed canopy situation for years usually produces shade-tolerant species in the subcanopy such as dogwood. Therefore, some stand manipulation is usually needed to improve the oak's chances of competing in the next stand.

Most of what I have described thus far deals with a mature hardwood stand nearing final harvest. If you have a young hardwood stand, your goals will

undoubtedly be different. Depending on your objectives for the property, one consideration could be the Crop Tree Management approach.

Crop Tree Management

Crop Tree Management is a system of forest resources management designed to concentrate the potential growth of a forest stand on the trees most likely to help you achieve your goals. In most cases, this is the production of high quality timber for future income. This is accomplished by cutting competing trees and releasing the crop trees so they are free to grow.

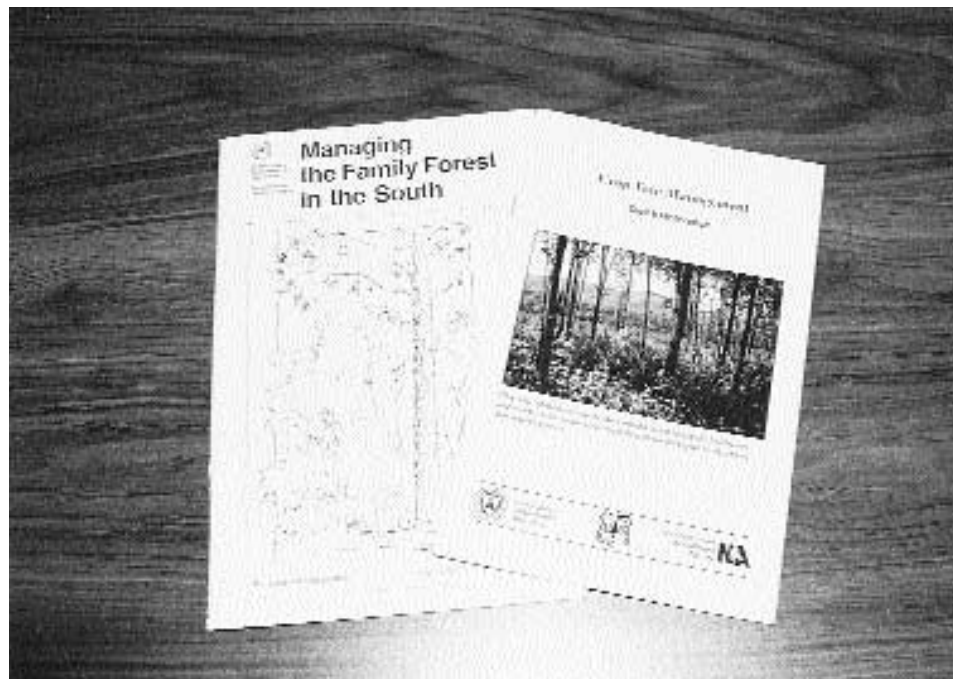
This system usually requires the selection of 25 to 50 crop trees per acre and is best when applied to an even-age stand at crown closure or between ages 15 to 20. The purpose is to focus an early growth advantage to selected crop trees by reducing adjacent competition. The advantages of applying this system are the following:

- It increases the likelihood the crop trees will persist in the stand.
- It increases the diameter growth of the quality crop trees.
- It gives some control of the future species composition.

The U.S. Forest Service published a *Crop Tree Management Quick Reference* guidebook in 1994. This guide explains the Crop Tree Management system using a seven-step process. Once you have identified the crop trees, all that is needed to implement the practice is a chainsaw. The cut trees can be utilized for firewood, pulpwood, fence posts, or allowed to rot where they fall.

The publication *Managing the Family Forest in the South*, also by the U.S. Forest Service, provides information on intermediate cultural treatments for hardwoods. These publications cannot take the place of advice from a registered forester, but they can help landowners understand hardwood management in a nutshell.

If you would like a copy of the *Crop Tree Management Quick Reference* guidebook, the *Managing the Family Forest in the South* publication, or other information on managing your hardwoods, contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission office, or call Tim Albritton at 334-240-9348 (e-mail: albritton@forestry.state.al.us). The Alabama Forestry Commission offers practical scientific advice and management assistance. Contact your local AFC office for referral to your county forester. 📞



Publications with information on hardwood regeneration are available from the Alabama Forestry Commission.



Sustain Our Future

By **JERRY DE BIN**, Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and **SHARON RUSHTON**, Step Outside®

Aldo Leopold, the father of modern conservation, described conservation as "...the state of harmony between people and the land." A half-century after those words were penned, almost three-fourths of all Alabamians live in urban or suburban areas. Natural resource managers suffer the effects of a society now disconnected from the land. The Alabama STEP OUTSIDE program is a call to action to reverse that trend.

Five Alabama conservation partners are pleased to announce "Step Outside," a mentor-based program that unites conservationists to advance our rich outdoors heritage. A formal agreement outlines commitments of the five Step Outside partners: the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association and The Nature Conservancy (Alabama Chapter).

Local Step Outside events will introduce newcomers to traditional outdoors activities such as hiking, fishing, bird watching, canoeing, hunting, camping and sport shooting. Local sponsorship of Step Outside events is open to conservation organizations, sporting goods manufacturers and retailers, hunting and fishing clubs, outdoors recreation outfitters, and corporate and private landowners.

Step Outside is founded on the principle that every person deserves an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. It is our responsibility as outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen to create such opportunities. Many Alabamians do this already,

but many more need to get involved. Step Outside will rally conservationists around a common mission: reconnecting Alabama's urbanized society with the outdoors. Now is the time to act. Now is the time for every interested person to get involved.

Commissioner Riley Boykin Smith said, "The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is committing personnel and resources to ensure Step Outside is successful. The other partners are committed as well. Working together with a variety of wildlife and outdoors enthusiasts, we

A recent survey indicates that over 2 million people spend some \$3 billion annually participating in wildlife-associated recreation in Alabama.

will build an effective Step Outside program. The initial cornerstones have now been laid, but the building process has only begun. From this point on, more groups and individuals will become involved in its design and construction."

Regardless of your particular hobbies associated with wildlife and the outdoors, chances are that a family member or close friend first introduced you to it. Instilling a love for nature is a one-on-one process that begins with people closest to you. Your personal invitation to Step Outside is, without a doubt, the easiest and most enjoyable way for first-timers to try their hand at target shooting, archery, hunting and fishing.

Why do it now? It's fun. Any time is a good time to spend outdoors with family and friends.

You Can Help Make a Difference

Individuals—You open up a whole new world for individuals. Helping them reach a comfort level with a variety of activities in the outdoors can have a profound effect on people. They become more aware of the world around them, learn respect for nature, witness the beauty of the natural world, increase their confidence and self-esteem, and develop new friends.

Families—Families who share outdoor experiences share a level of joy and family bonding that goes beyond the day-to-day experiences to unique and treasured moments. The old saying is still true, "Hunt with your children today and you won't have to hunt for them tomorrow." Participating in target shooting, archery, hunting or fishing as a family enhances communications and sharing more than other types of family activities. It also creates a scrapbook of lifetime memories.

The environment—Individuals who participate in outdoor activities are at the forefront of protecting and conserving the environment. They become involved in local and national activities related to the environment, and they contribute to fish and wildlife conservation through licenses and excise taxes. A recent survey indicates that over 2 million people spend some \$3 billion annually participating in wildlife-associated recreation in Alabama.

Traditional outdoor sports—Once people experience target shooting, fishing, archery and hunting, they understand that these are wholesome activities that provide benefits both to the individual participating in the activity and the management of our fish and wildlife. They spread the good word about outdoor sports and have an effect on others' attitudes toward them.

There's another equally good reason to introduce a newcomer to traditional outdoor activities. Family members and close friends have traditionally passed their outdoor heritage to the next generation. Today, however, with people moving to cities and always on the move,

with increasing demands on free time and a greater variety of ways to spend that time, more of us miss out on a chance to understand and appreciate the outdoor experience. You can step in and change that. You can invite these people to Step Outside. You can make an impact with every individual you invite.

What's in it for you? Invite someone to Step Outside, and . . .

- Share the rewards of introducing someone to an experience you enjoy.
- Expand the circle of friends with whom you target shoot, hunt and fish.
- Make a personal contribution to ensuring a stronger future for traditional outdoor activities—and have fun while you're at it!
- Enjoy the rewards of being someone's mentor.

Whom can you invite? Everyone you know. Consider taking along your spouse, children, boss, church group, child's teacher, scout troop, child's coach, neighbor, parents, golf buddies, friend, niece or nephew, doctor, aerobics classmates, and co-workers.

Will they come? You can bet on it. Research by Roper Starch Worldwide concludes 67 million men and 47 million women would accept an invitation to go target shooting if asked. These statistics indicate an opportunity not only to increase participation in shooting sports, but in all traditional outdoor activities.

What a terrific opportunity for us all!

Which activities are best? It's wide open. The Step Outside concept is adaptable to scores of custom-tailored invitations. Here are a few ideas. Pick and choose the parts you like best.

Remember the family member who first got you hooked on target shooting, hunting or fishing? Return the favor. Play host to a family member for a day of outdoor activities. How about your niece?

The next time your skeet or archery club has a competitive event, ask your congressman or city councilman to drop by and give it a try. It's a great way to educate legislators who vote on wildlife and conservation measures.

Know a student interested in hunting? Pledge to take him or her all the way through Hunter Education—from finding the course, providing transportation, and assisting in the purchase of the first license to taking the successful student on his or her first hunting trip.

As an experienced outdoor enthusiast, you're a prime candidate to invite and assist a physically challenged individual during a day outdoors. For example, Wheelin' Sportsmen of America is an Alabama-based organization committed to making the outdoors more accessible to everyone.

You'd like to cultivate stronger support for conservation issues among your local and state elected officials.

Introduce them to the wonders of the great outdoors. Extend an invitation to cancel appointments and spend an afternoon flyfishing, hunting, or canoeing with you.

Your favorite co-worker is taking another job. Keep the friendship alive by turning him or her into a hunting buddy. Invite him or her to join your friends next time you go afield.

How about extending an invitation to a member of the media? Call a local reporter or an anchorperson on your favorite local TV news program and ask him or her to Step Outside.

Step Outside partners are especially committed to a total team effort. A series of organizational meetings are being held across the state involving partners and prospective local sponsors. Any interested group or individual is invited to become part of the Alabama Step Outside campaign. Step Outside is more than a program; it is a contagious attitude. Catch it and pass it on.

To learn how you can help bring STEP OUTSIDE to your county, please contact:

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Conservation Education Coordinator
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Freshwater Fisheries

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Phone: 334-242-3623

Email: jdebin@dcnr.state.al.us



TREASURE Forest: 6 Steps to Success

Anyone owning 10 or more acres of forestland can be considered for the certified TREASURE Forest award. To be eligible, a landowner must do the following with respect to all their forestland in Alabama:

1. Identify one primary and at least one secondary management objective for the property based on the following list of choices: Timber Production; Wildlife; Recreation; Aesthetics; Environmental Education.

2. Possess or acquire a written multiple-use management plan for the property. Your local Alabama Forestry Commission office can help you identify options for obtaining a written management plan if one does not exist.

3. Actively practice multiple-use management on the property. Your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission can supply you with information on the level of management activity necessary.

Once these items are in place, the following must occur to earn the award:

4. The property must be nominated by someone associated with one of the member agencies or groups of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee. You may contact them and suggest a nomination if you feel your property or that of someone you know qualifies for the award.

5. The property must be inspected by a registered forester and wildlife biolo-

gist. Your local Alabama Forestry Commission office will arrange the inspection.

6. The nomination and inspection report must be submitted to the TREASURE Forest Subcommittee of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee for review and approval.

7. If you would like to be considered for the certified TREASURE Forest award, or know of someone else who may qualify, contact your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission or other member agency/group of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee. These organizations are listed on page 2 of this magazine. They will be happy to assist you with the certification process.

Surf in Alabama's Forests!

WWW.PFMT.ORG

By **DR. GLENN R. GLOVER**, Extension Specialist and **JEANNIE DEAN**, Information Technology Specialist, Private Forest Management Team, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University

Have you YAHOOed? spouts a popular television advertisement. The World Wide Web (WWW) has sprung to the forefront as an information source for many people. People born digital, those who have adopted digital, and those drug into the digital age kicking and screaming are using the Web in growing numbers to access a myriad of information: everything from Airline flights to growing Zucchini's (if you can't grow zucchini's, don't bother with the rest of the garden).

The amount of information available on the Web is growing at a phenomenal rate. How much of it is *worthwhile information* is certainly debatable. Unlike most publications you receive containing technical information, material on the Web is not typically reviewed—that is, no one looks over a Webmaster's shoulder to ensure the information placed on a Web site is correct (or even true!).

The Private Forest Management Team (PFMT) was initiated in 1998 as an educational effort financially supported by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University, the Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM State Implementation Committee of the Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama River Woodlands and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Organizations such as the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, the Alabama Forestry Commission, and the Association of Consulting Foresters partner with the PFMT to provide sound technical information to Alabama forest landowners.

The PFMT has several ongoing programs. One effort is a Web site (**WWW.PFMT.ORG**) being developed to provide online reference material and

technical information to Alabama forest landowners. Most state Extension Systems maintain a Web site of their publications. Some even have the option of downloading publications either in the web browser or as an Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) file.

Easy Access to Information

What makes the PFMT Web site different? Have you ever attempted to search for a specific topic on the Web? A quick web search for "southern pine beetle" found only one reference on Yahoo (www.yahoo.com), 8,150 on Google (www.google.com) and 1306 on AltaVista (www.altavista.com), three common directories/search engines. Google and AltaVista provided some good links to useful information. Searches can be time consuming, however, and often return either too little or too much information. You may have to sift through many Web sites to find what you need. What you do find may or may not be applicable to Alabama forests.

The PFMT Web site provides landowners and stakeholders a place to find sound information that can be trusted. The Web site is organized to facilitate easy access to a vast array and variety of information that can assist forest landowners and managers. It is arranged similar to a book, with information organized in "chapters," with each chapter having sub-chapters or sub-headings. The site can be searched to quickly find information available on a particular subject of interest. A large volume of information has been added to the site, but there is still much to be done. Access to and development of **appropriate** content for the Web site is time-consuming. Now that the site is developed and being used by a variety of people, plans are to col-

laborate with industry participants, Alabama Forestry Commission specialists and foresters, ACES specialists and county agents, forestry consultants and others to augment development of content. There is substantial knowledge and written material available across Alabama that can be utilized in filling voids.

Let's look at some of the information available on WWW.PFMT.ORG. The HOME page links you to information ABOUT THE PFMT, supporting and cooperating organizations, a GLOSSARY OF TERMS, and to the Alabama Forest Owners Association and the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's excellent event calendars. You can also find links to current or important topics of interest to forest landowners and to meetings. A very important link on the HOME page is CONTACT US. This automatically sends you to e-mail so you can make a comment about the website, request information, suggest a topic be added to the website or ask us a question. Let us hear from you!

You can access the Forest Masters website (WWW.PFMT.ORG/FM) by simply clicking on the gold Forest Masters icon on the HOME page. Here you can request certification of meetings or field trips, check for meetings that are already certified, look for speakers for your meetings, make an application to Forest Masters, submit service hours, and check your credits. If you are not a participant in Forest Masters, check it out! The "frame" at the bottom of page 13 is taken directly from the Web site and shows major topic areas ("chapters"). This frame stays on the screen no matter where you have surfed to in the site. Clicking on PLANNING brings you

information on multiple-use forestry and a two-hour online presentation (broken into 5-10 minute segments) on ESTATE PLANNING by Dr. Robert Tufts. This presentation requires RealPlayer, available free from a link on the PFMT site. Several other presentations, videos and slide shows on PFMT.ORG require RealPlayer, so it is a good idea to download and install it. The HARVESTING topic has information on Selling Your Timber, Timber Sale Contracts and will have descriptions of different harvesting methods.

Topics on the Web Site

The GROWTH AND YIELD topic has the Pine Plantation Investment Calculator (PPIC) in the form of an EXCEL spreadsheet that can be downloaded to your computer or used online if you have a current version of MS Internet Explorer. This calculator helps you evaluate the economic return from intensive pine plantation management. There will soon be yield information available under this topic for a combination of silvicultural practices such as site preparation, herbaceous weed control, fertilization and thinning. The yield information can be used in the PPIC. You may want assistance from a professional forester to help you interpret these results.

Under RESOURCE INVENTORIES—TIMBER there are descriptions of how to properly measure trees to determine volume or weight and even board foot volume tables and weight tables available. This information can be valuable to FFA and 4-H Forestry Judging Teams.

The STAND MANAGEMENT topic will include a variety of information. You can now find out how to eradicate and manage kudzu under COMPETITION CONTROL and access the “bible” of prescribed burning in the South under PRESCRIBED FIRE. An online course is in development to prepare you or your

forester to become a certified prescribed burner in Alabama.

Clicking on FORESTERS provides definitions of different types of foresters and links to lists of consulting foresters, industry landowner assistance programs and management assistance programs in your county. There is also a paper by Dr. Stephen Jones, currently the director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, on “Managing Your Forest with the Help of a Consulting Forester.” Did you know that foresters had to be registered in Alabama? Information on the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters can be found here, as well.

BMPs, or Best Management Practices, are very important to protecting water quality and Alabama’s environment. The state’s voluntary BMPs are included in this section, as well as links to forest industry BMPs for protecting water quality and stream crossings.

PESTS AND DISEASES gives you basic information and links you to Dr. Scott Enebak’s “Alabama Forest Disease and Insect Pests Database” to assist you in identifying potential pest and disease problems. There are two excellent links to Southern pine beetle information and control methods.

FOREST ROADS is an important area often overlooked by forest landowners. Most of the erosion in your forest can come not from harvesting, but from improperly designed and maintained roads. This section includes design of WATER DIVERSIONS and critical information on STREAM CROSSINGS.

Ever wonder what species of trees you have in your forest? DENDROLOGY includes a “Key to Common Trees of Alabama” and Dr. Lisa Samuelson’s colorful and informative website on “Trees of Alabama and the Southeast.” Wander through pictures of the leaves, twigs, fruits and bark to see if you can determine what is growing on your back forty or down on the creek.

In the AESTHETICS section there is the Aesthetics Guide, reproduced with

permission from the American Pulpwood Association (now the Forest Resources Association) and American Forest and Paper Association. This guide gives you excellent ideas on how to plan for aesthetics in all aspects of your forest operations. There is also a link here to expert Caroline Dean’s WILDFLOWER Web site depicting and describing Alabama’s bounty of beautiful wildflowers.

Do you have wetlands on your property, and if so, do you know how to manage them? Under ENVIRONMENT you will find a number of topics related to water quality, endangered species and a recent addition on “Understanding Wetlands: Assistance for Private Forest Landowners.”

Many landowners have a strong interest in managing game and non-game WILDLIFE. Clicking here brings you a variety of information from AU’s Extension wildlife publications to white-tail deer nutrition. You will also find a link to Rhett Johnson and Brett Wehrle’s, “Threatened and Endangered Species of Alabama: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities,” that provides a clickable Alabama map so you can discover which endangered species may occur in your county and how forestry operations can affect them.

COUNTY RESOURCES provides a wealth of information and contacts within your own Alabama county. You can easily access listings of PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS, CERTIFIED LOGGERS and ENDANGERED SPECIES and links to county service providers and ATFA county chapters.

VISIT MY FOREST offers a collection of videos and slide shows of outstanding private forest management in Alabama. Videos of the regional Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award winners and State Tree Farmers of the Year have been converted to RealPlayer format that can be viewed on a variety of Internet connections. For

Continued on page 14



The navigation bar at the bottom of every screen shows what topics of information are available and allows for easy click-through to different subjects.

Surf

Continued from page 13

slower modems, utilize the slide shows that maintain the audio, but use selected frames from the videos. All forest landowners, school students and anyone interested in Alabama's forests should view these excellent presentations. They exhibit the strong beliefs in stewardship and love for the forest held by many active forest landowners in the state.

There is an extensive list of FORESTRY LINKS to whisk you off into forestry cyberspace. These links are organized into several categories to assist you in finding what you need. If you know an appropriate link that you think other landowners would benefit from,

feel free to send it to us by using the CONTACT US button on the HOME page.


The PFMT is coordinating certain website information and services with the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's Web site (WWW.ATFA.NET). An online speaker's database, providing state and county organizations easy access to speakers by subject, is being developed in conjunction with the ATFA. This database resides on the PFMT server and is accessed by both Web sites.

Conclusion

This is a brief overview of the PFMT Web site. There are many sections of the Web site that are yet to be completed.

Developing this Web site is akin to writing a book. As time and resources are available, additional portions of the website will be completed. This Web site is designed for you—the forest landowner. If you have information that you think might be useful or know a resource provider that could assist with providing technical material, please contact us from the PFMT HOME page (CONTACT US). Your feedback is always welcome.

SURF'S UP—take a wild ride on the new wave in forestry—just watch out for the hickories, they can do a lot of damage to your surfboard!

Contact the Private Forest Management Team at: pfmt@auburn.edu or visit the Web site at www.pfmt.org. 

Alabama Wildlife Federation Offers \$5,000 Operation GameWatch Reward

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, through its Operation GameWatch Program, is offering a \$5,000 reward for information resulting in the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the illegal shooting of a bear being monitored in the Alabama Black Bear Alliance's (ABBA) research project and conservation initiative.

On October 9, 2000, a 220-pound male black bear (bear #11), fitted with a telemetry collar as part of the ABBA effort, was found dead in north Mobile County from multiple gunshot wounds. At this time, investigations are ongoing to apprehend and prosecute the person(s) responsible for this criminal act.

The AWF is encouraging anyone with information regarding this careless act to call the Operation GameWatch hotline at 1-800-272-GAME. Conservation Enforcement Officers are ready to follow all useful leads as they work to apprehend the criminals who killed black bear #11.

"Through the efforts of the Alabama Black Bear Alliance and private landowners in southwest Alabama, we have made significant strides in elevating among the local public the desire to protect and conserve black bear in Mobile and Washington counties. We are taking


steps today to help ensure that those productive efforts are not squandered by poachers," said Tim Gothard, Executive Director of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Corky Pugh, director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, says, "We have assigned an investigator to this case who I am certain can bring the individual or individuals responsible for this heinous act to justice. If there is an investigator alive who can track these individuals down, this is the man. A combination of his work, along with the expert knowledge of the local area and its inhabitants on the part of our uniformed officers, bolstered by the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Operation GameWatch reward, will surely result in the apprehension of the person or persons responsible for this serious game law violation."

Established in 1983, Operation GameWatch is a program of the Alabama Wildlife Federation that provides a toll-free hotline (1-800-272-GAME) direct to the Law Enforcement Section of ADCNR, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for reporting poachers. Callers can identify themselves

or remain anonymous. The program also pays cash rewards to individuals who provide information that makes the difference and results in the arrest and conviction of poachers. Operation GameWatch is supported by AWF members and hunting enthusiasts and was created for the specific purpose of protecting our game resources and to distinguish between responsible hunters who adhere to and respect our game laws versus poachers.

The mission of the Alabama Black Bear Alliance is to promote restoration of the black bear into its former range through research, habitat management and education. The estimated number of black bears in southwest Alabama ranges from as few as 50 to as many as several hundred. The AWF and The Nature Conservancy of Alabama established the Alabama Black Bear Alliance in 1997. Participants also include private landowners, forest industry, state and federal agencies, and other conservation groups.

The Alabama Wildlife Federation is the state's oldest and largest citizens' conservation organization. To learn more about the AWF, contact the AWF at 1-800-822-WILD or stop by online at www.alawild.org. 

Using Grass Carp for Controlling Weeds in Alabama Ponds

By **JOHN W. JENSEN**, Extension Fisheries Specialist, Department Head,
Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, Auburn University

The grass carp, a native of Russian and Chinese rivers, was imported into the United States in 1963 for aquatic weed control and to be used as food. From the beginning, the grass carp controlled most underwater and some floating weeds in ponds. Unlike the common carp found in Alabama waters, grass carp do not stir up bottom mud to the extent of the common carp.

Grass carp need running water to spawn and they will not spawn in ponds. Each day, they can eat two to three times their own weight in aquatic plants and they may gain 5 to 10 pounds in a single year. When properly stocked in ponds, the grass carp control filamentous algae (pond moss) and underwater rooted plants. They also suppress floating duckweeds and water fern, but will not eliminate either species. When stocked at recommended rates, grass carp do not interfere with other fishes. They also do not interfere with fishing and can be caught with some difficulty on a hook and line using worms or grass as bait.

Grass carp have small bones in their flesh that can be removed by properly dressing the fish. Their flesh is firm and flaky, and it has a good flavor.

Sources Of Grass Carp

Adult grass carp spawn in late spring when the water is warming. They are injected with hormones to induce spawn-

ing. All sizes are available at any time of the year.

The fish are sold by commercial fish dealers across Alabama. However, recent legislation makes it a federal offense to violate state laws that prohibit the possession, transport, or sale of grass carp. Grass carp are not illegal in Alabama and can therefore be used freely.

Sizes and Numbers to Stock

Table 1 shows recommended grass carp stocking sizes and rates for use in ponds. Larger grass carp (8 to 10 inches) should be stocked in ponds with established bass populations. Smaller fingerlings (2 to 6 inches) should be used only when predators are absent or in newly stocked ponds where the predators are about the same size as the grass carp. Smaller fingerlings can also be stocked in catfish ponds. Grass carp are readily eaten by bass and other fish-eating fish.

Expected Results

It takes time for grass carp to bring a weed problem under control. Weeds may or may not be controlled at the end of the first growing season. Usually, you can see results by the end of the second growing season. If not, then you may need to restock with enough fish to bring the total number in the pond up to the maximum recommended rate of 20 fish per acre. If the weed you want to control

is not a favorite of the grass carp, you may need to try other control methods. For more information see Extension Circular ANR-48, "Control of Weeds in Lakes and Farm Ponds."

After the weeds are gone in ponds that are stocked at the maximum rate, about one-half of the grass carp should be removed. If the grass carp are left in the ponds, there will no longer be enough food to support all of the remaining fish. The fish can be selectively harvested by angling, by using a large mesh gill net, by applying 0.10 part per million 5 percent rotenone, or by shooting with a rifle or bow and arrow.

Stocking Grass Carp in Catfish Production Ponds

Grass carp can also be used for weed control in catfish production ponds. They will eat some of the catfish feed, but when stocked at recommended rates, they will not reduce catfish production.

Grass carp are in the catfish ponds only a short time before the catfish are harvested. Therefore, more grass carp may be needed to control weeds in the ponds. If the catfish ponds are harvested annually, about 40 to 50 8-inch fish should be stocked per acre. Weed control in catfish fingerling ponds may require 50 to 100 8-inch grass carp stocked per acre.

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Recommended Stocking Rates per Acre for Grass Carp

Bass Situation	Degree of Weed Infestation		
	Slight	Moderate	Heavy
Ponds with bass: stock large carp, 8-12 inches	5/Acre	10-15/Acre	15-20/Acre
Ponds without bass: stock small carp, 2-6 inches	6-8/Acre	12-18/Acre	18-20/Acre

E.A. Hauss Nursery Seedlings

The Alabama Forestry Commission's E.A. Hauss Nursery in Atmore still has some seedlings left for the current planting season. Pines, hardwoods and wildlife habitat foods are available. For more information or to place an order call 334-368-4854.

Pine Prices

Loblolly			Slash		
Seed Source	Price Per 500	1,000	Seed Source	Price Per 500	1,000
Coastal 1st Generation	\$23	\$35	1st Generation	\$23	\$35
Coastal 1.5 Generation	\$25	\$39	1.5 Generation	\$25	\$39
Piedmont 1st Generation	\$23	\$35			
Piedmont 2nd Generation	\$28	\$44			

1st Generation (cycle)—These seedlings are grown from seed collected from our grafted orchards. These orchards are established using selected high performance parent trees from variable natural stands. These seedlings are often referred to as “improved” pine seedlings.

1.5 Generation (cycle)—These seedlings are grown from seed collected from our grafted orchards which have been established using the best performing parents from our 1st cycle orchards.

2nd Generation (cycle)—These seedlings are grown from seed collected from our grafted orchards using the best performing crosses and/or parents from our first cycle orchards based on progeny test data.

Hardwood Prices

Species Available	Per 100	Per 1,000
Yellow Poplar	\$21	\$185
Green Ash	\$21	\$185

Wildlife Food and Habitat Prices

Species Available	100	500	1,000	Package: 25 seedlings of your choice (min. 5 per species)
	(same species)	(min. 100 per species)	(min. 100 per species)	
Common Persimmon	\$40	\$150	\$250	\$12
Eastern Redbud	\$40	\$150	\$250	\$12
Flowering Dogwood	\$40	\$150	\$250	\$12
Sawtooth Oak	\$40	\$150	\$250	\$12
Native Pecan	\$40	\$150	\$250	\$12

Cooler Locations

Huntsville	256-774-4411
Florence	256-767-1414
Tuscaloosa	205-339-0929
Birmingham Area	256-734-0573
Montgomery Area	334-365-8333
Opelika	334-368-4854
Ozark	334-368-4854
Atmore	334-368-4854

Ordering Information

Placing your order:

1. Select species and quantity desired.
2. Call 334-368-4854 for availability and to place your order.
3. You will receive an acknowledgment with 5-7 working days.

Paying for your order

1. Upon receipt of your acknowledgment remit a 10% non-refundable deposit if your order is for more than 50,000 pines or more than 10,000 hardwoods.
2. Upon receipt of your acknowledgment remit full payment for all other orders.
3. For proper credit always note your customer ID number on your payment.
4. We accept checks and money orders payable to: Alabama Forestry Commission.
5. All payments/deposits are due within 30 days of the acknowledgment date.

Receiving your order:

Orders are available for delivery during January and February only!

Hauss nursery pick-up—Schedule your delivery at least 2 weeks in advance by calling 334-368-4854.

UPS delivery—Select shipping date from the calendar enclosed with your acknowledgment and return with your payment.

Cooler delivery—Select the desired cooler location for pick-up.

Schedule your delivery at least 2 weeks in advance by calling the number shown for that location.

NOTE: Hauss Nursery will begin taking orders for the 2001-2002 planting season in the spring/early summer. Look for details in the spring issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*.

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: _____

Mail to: Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, P.O. Box 145, Chunchula, AL 36521

For more information about the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association contact James Malone, Executive Director, at (334) 442-2424.

Crops Planted in Spring and Early Summer Attract Doves in the Fall

By **TIM COSBY**, Chief, Law Enforcement Section and **KEITH GUYSE**,

Assistant Chief, Wildlife Section, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Mourning dove hunting is a popular sport in Alabama. In fact, more hunters take part in dove seasons than in any of the other Alabama game bird seasons. Since doves are speedy aerial acrobats, considerable skill is needed to bag them consistently. Doves feed almost entirely on seeds of various types, either cultivated or grown naturally. Doves can be hunted near spots they go to for water and around openings of various kinds. However, most dove hunting occurs on fields managed for an ample supply of seeds under conditions the birds prefer.

Plan Ahead


Some areas that attract doves develop as a result of other activities such as row crop fanning and livestock operations. However, most dove fields are the result of two factors: (1) someone plans ahead to produce a crop of seeds that will appeal to doves during the fall and winter and (2) the crop is manipulated to attract the birds at the particular time hunting will take place. The challenge is

to choose good crops and plant them at the proper time in spring and early summer to produce seeds that mature at just the right time in fall. The mature crops can then be manipulated to draw doves to the field for hunting. Such fields are totally legal under current state and federal law.

Millets such as browntop, proso and dove proso are favorites for doves and are relatively easy and inexpensive to produce. Corn and grain sorghum require more time to mature but have been used for dove hunting for generations. Sunflowers are attractive for doves but do well only if grown in areas where the young plants won't be damaged by deer. The planting of these crops should be planned ahead to allow them to reach maturity just prior to dove season (see table). Specific recommendations for planting and fertilizing crops vary for different regions of the state. County Extension System offices are able to provide appropriate information for the areas they serve.

After a summer crop is grown it can

be manipulated in the field to ensure the seeds are available to doves. The crop can be mowed, burned, grazed, etc. in whole or in segments if necessary to extend its effectiveness for attracting doves. A crop grown for doves must remain on the field. Seed from an outside source cannot be added to the seed grown on the field. It is not legal to remove grain from the field and then redistribute it on the field. It is also not legal to store grain on the field where it is grown and then redistribute it on the field or move the grain from one location on the field to another location and redistribute it. Normally harvested fields of grain may be hunted over.

If your goal is to hunt doves in the fall, you must start early. Make plans for the crops you will grow. Plant at the proper times in spring and early summer. Manipulate the crop (mow, burn, hay, disc or graze) prior to the dove hunting season to attract more birds. Buy plenty of shotgun shells, find a good recipe for cooking doves, invite your friends and enjoy it all. 

Dove Crop Recommendations

Crop	How to Plant	When to Plant	Seed Rate
Corn	Rows	Recommended dates by Extension System for variety	As recommended for soil type
Dove Proso Millet	Broadcast	July-Early August	20 lbs. per acre
Browntop Millet	Broadcast	At 2-week intervals in July	20 lbs. per acre
Grain Sorghum	Broadcast or Rows	June-July	20-25 lbs. per acre
Sunflower	Rows	April 1-July 15	10 lbs. per acre

Tuscaloosa Forestry and Wildlife Judging Teams Maintain National Leadership

By JIM LANGCUSTER, Extension Communications Specialist

Almost a decade ago, while competing in a 4-H horse show in north Tuscaloosa County, Charlaina Greene made a decision that would impact not only on her own life but several other Tuscaloosa youths as well. "One of my friends told me she was going to Auburn to participate in the state 4-H junior wildlife judging competition," Charlaina recalls. "She asked me if I wanted to go too and I said, 'sure!'"

To prepare for the competition, Charlaina faced a daunting three days of intensive study—a tall order for a girl who was only 9 years old at the time. Her efforts paid big dividends: she and her team took second place in the statewide competition—by all accounts, a respectable showing for a rookie.

From then on, Charlaina was hooked on wildlife judging—so hooked that she persuaded other young people to join the wildlife team and, later, the Tuscaloosa County 4-H forestry judging team. One of her recruits was Jacob Ramsey, who had been one of Charlaina's academic rivals in school.

"I thought this would be one way to beat her, but it ended up being fun in addition to being competitive," Jacob recalls with a smile. Charlaina's and Jacob's experiences closely parallel those of other 4-H'ers whose experience with wildlife and forestry judging started at an early age and who loved the competition despite the mind-numbing study and preparation.

Wayne Ford, a Tuscaloosa County Extension agent, is widely considered the "father" of Alabama 4-H forestry judging in Alabama. The judging teams grew out of a natural resources short course Ford holds annually in the small Tuscaloosa County community of Fosters to introduce kids to natural resource and conservation issues. Like any resourceful coach, Ford also uses the event to recruit topflight talent to participate in his wildlife and forestry judging teams.

Under Ford's leadership, Tuscaloosa teams already have garnered nine national championships—six forestry and three wildlife. Since Alabama began competing in the national 4-H forestry judging competitions in 1984, it has dominated all other states by winning 10 national championships. Likewise, since 1989, Alabama 4-H wildlife judging teams also have won four national championships and several reserve championships.

"Alabama is a natural place for building championship teams," Ford says. "It's one of those states where it's still possible to walk out your front door and encounter an environment you can learn from firsthand."

Of all 4-H competitions, wildlife and forestry judging are among the most rigorous. To compete successfully in either category, team members undertake hundreds of hours of intense study covering everything from wildlife habitat to tree identification. "With wildlife judging, you have to learn what (habitat management) practices are best suited to different types of wildlife," says Matt Hallman, a wildlife and forestry judging team member who started college last fall. "This even involves learning how to read aerial photographs."

Aside from that, team members also have to know how to identify many different wildlife species as well as their eating habits. Acquiring this knowledge usually involves a combination of book learning and practical experience. "You're assigned a book that you pretty

much have to learn inside out," Hallman says, "but practical experience accounts for a whole lot too."

Forestry judging preparation involves an entirely different set of challenges. Statewide competition involves learning how to identify more than 60 different trees in Alabama. If the kids are lucky enough to win statewide competition, as the Tuscaloosa team did this year, they must acquire a strong knowledge of more than 25 additional tree species in order to compete at the national level. On top of that, add forestry insect predators and diseases. "We would come and practice on Saturday and Sunday afternoons," says Lindsey Waters, now a college freshman, as she recalls preparing for last summer's national forestry judging competition in Weston, West Virginia. "Then, on the way to West Virginia, we studied 45 straight minutes at a time (at Mr. Ford's urging) and then took what Mr. Ford called 15-minute 'power naps.'"

Their efforts paid off. Winning by 58 points against its nearest competitor, the Tuscaloosa team carried away its sixth national forestry judging trophy.

As an Extension agent working in the town where the late Paul Bear Bryant amassed six national college football championships, Ford always had aspired for his forestry teams to win six national championships. He got his wish last summer in West Virginia. 🏆

Alabama Forest Landowners Summit: Future and Current Markets for Forest Products

February 1, 2001

University of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the
Alabama TREASURE Forest Association at 334-442-2424.

Current Use Values Reassessed for Forestland

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

In 1982, Alabama's Legislature passed the Current Use Act, which defines four classes of taxable properties. The third class includes timberland. Class III properties encompass all "agricultural, forest and residential property, and historic buildings and sites" and presently qualify for current use status.

Current use valuation was designed to help landowners keep their lands in forest as opposed to converting land to meet the tax burden. This valuation system insulates timberland owners from urban sprawl, skyrocketing values and a potential forced sale.

According to Bill Bass, Property Tax Division Director for the Alabama Department of Revenue, "Current use application assumes that property such as timberland and farmland will produce income that can be capitalized to determine an actual land value of the property." You still must remember that your property can be assessed at market value as based on sales prices of similar properties. This will automatically happen if you do not request an appraisal at current use value from your county tax assessor's office.

New Reassessment

There is a new reassessment of cur-

rent use values for timberland by the Alabama Department of Revenue. This annual adjustment in current use timberland value will change your tax obligation; the latest change was effective October 1, 2000.



Using a fixed formula set by law, new current use values for 2000 have recently been published in a news release issued by the Department of Revenue. The formula uses two fluctuating values: timber price and interest rates.

The price used in the legal formula, calculated by the Alabama Forestry Commission, is based on a weighted average pulpwood stumpage price in

Alabama for the previous calendar year. The interest rate is based on a 10-year rate average of new loans issued by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas. The loan rate is then reduced by 4.5 percent before it is used in the current formula.

Other factors used in the formula include timber productivity rates and an expense ratio, also specified by law. The Revenue Department says, "Each timberland property is assigned a productivity rate, ranging from 1.38 cords per acre per year to 'good' timberland to a low of .6 cords per acre per year for 'nonproductive' land. The expense ratio is fixed at 15 percent of the annual income from timber sales." The current use value is then calculated.

Using all these factors, the Alabama Department of Revenue has calculated current use values for the 2000 taxing year. The rates for each timberland value class are shown in the table below.

According to the Property Tax Division of the Alabama Department of Revenue, "In early October, the Alabama Department of Revenue notified county tax-assessing officials of changes in the current use values on timberland." This change will result in an eight-cent per acre increase in a county with an average millage rate of 41.5 mills. 📄

New Current Use Values for Timberland

Good Timberland	\$529 per acre	up \$20 per acre over 1999
Average Timberland	\$403 per acre	up \$16 per acre over 1999
Poor Timberland	\$288 per acre	up \$11 per acre over 1999
Nonproductive Timberland	\$230 per acre	up \$9 per acre over 1999

2000 Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference

Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award Winners



Sara and Raymond Shaw
Northeast Region



Myra and Marion Mickelson
Southeast Region



L.C. and Kaye Steedley
Northwest Region



Smith and Sons Farm
Southwest Region

Outstanding County Forestry Planning Committees



Covington County
State Award



Lamar County
Masters Award

Natural Resources Special Project Award *Butler County*

Team TREASURE Forest Awards *Covington County, Fayette County, Jackson County, Mobile County*

Former State Forester C.W. Moody Honored by NASF

The National Association of State Foresters recently made a recommendation to honor past state foresters who have made significant contributions to state and private forestry. Former Alabama State Forester C.W. "Bill" Moody has been chosen to have the conservation education achievement award named in his honor for the next three years. It will be known as the "Bill Moody Current Achievement Award for Conservation Education." He is the first former state forester to receive this distinction in the field of conservation education.

Bill Moody received his degree in forestry from the University of Florida. Before coming to the Alabama Forestry Commission, he was employed by the Florida Forest Service. As state forester of Alabama, Moody was instrumental in laying the foundation for the TREASURE Forest Program. The Alabama Forestry Commission and many of its programs grew under Moody's leadership. Forestry education was always in the forefront, and it is for this effort that NASF is honoring him. Moody retired in August 1993 after 23 years as state forester. He and his wife Mary continue to reside in Montgomery, Alabama.

BASF Offers Free Wildlife Management Publications

BASF, formerly American Cyanamid, is offering several free publications. Call 1-800-545-9525, extension F2720 to request any of the following:

- "Managing for Trophy Deer," reprint CP-022.
- "Timber, Wildlife Benefit from Brush Control," reprint PE-0234.
- "Improving Forest Value and Wildlife Habitat," reprint PE-11433.
- "Reducing Wildlife Enhancement Costs," reprint PE-11447.

Wildlife Management Assistance Available

If you are not already a certified TREASURE Forest landowner and own at least 10 acres of forestland, wildlife management assistance is available to you at no charge. Through a partnership between the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation, wildlife biologist Claude Jenkins provides on-site wildlife management assistance to private

landowners. Here are some examples of the type of assistance Claude can provide:

- General property/tract wildlife habitat and management assessments.
- Supplemental planting evaluation/troubleshooting.
- Treatment recommendations sufficient for inclusion in TREASURE Forest management plans.

- Completion of appropriate portions of TREASURE Forest nomination forms for qualified candidates.
- TREASURE Forest inspections.

To request assistance, complete and mail the form below.

Yes! I'd like to schedule a consultation with a wildlife biologist.

My land is located in _____ County.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail form to: Tim Albritton, Alabama Forestry Commission, P.O. Box 302550, Montgomery, AL 36130-2550

ATFA Succeeds by Involving and Empowering Alabamians

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

Alabama TREASURE Forest Association chapter activities encourage people to become involved in their local county because they offer many opportunities to meet and interact with others who are interested in forest natural resource conservation. The ATFA statewide membership has increased more than 164 percent during the past 18 months as chapters bring in more and more people who enjoy the activities and find a connection to our TREASURE Forest family.

Participants at ATFA meetings have a variety of interests and receive value in many different forms. Some seek to increase their knowledge of how to manage their forestland; others take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people who share the same interests and challenges.

The ATFA promotes participation by helping to establish and facilitate programs that benefit ATFA county chapters. We recognize the importance of empowering people with a knowledge of the value of our natural resources and the impact they have on the quality of life for every Alabamian. These programs are designed to provide educational and social avenues to attract and involve more people.

Programs Involve Many

The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Leadership Training Sessions are encouraging and empowering a network of people who are motivated to build and sustain grass roots ATFA chapters in all Alabama counties. More than half of Alabama counties have already formed ATFA chapters and are holding meetings. Many more counties are in different stages of chapter formation. This growth has come in part as a direct result of people who became excited about the ATFA and about helping their neighbors.

One of the most successful programs is "Beyond Becoming an Outdoors

Woman." The B-BOW program is designed to give women the opportunity for hands-on instruction and experience that instills confidence in a variety of outdoor recreational activities. This program has been conducted in Mobile, Conecuh, Tallapoosa, and Washington counties and several more counties are planning B-Bow Events in the spring of 2001.



The "Classroom in the Forest: Forest in the Classroom," which is an expansion of our celebrated Adopt-A-School Program, was very successful in Mobile County during its pilot project last year. This program is now being expanded to Montgomery, Jefferson, Madison, and Mobile counties. The program carries an important message about the value of our forest natural resources and the role that private landowners play in the sustainability of those resources in Alabama. "Classroom in the Forest" seeks to empower teams of landowner, stakeholder and agency representatives to go into the classroom and present a series of lessons and activities. Then the presenters follow up by taking school students on a tour of a TREASURE Forest in the weeks that follow.

Another program that has proven beneficial to ATFA chapters is the "Charter Night Celebration." The pilot for this program proved to be very successful in Pike County where it was used as a catalyst for membership growth. The result was a 300 percent increase in membership. The Pike County Charter Night Celebration also attracted numerous financial supporters from the community and increased public awareness of the chapter.

We encourage our leaders to conduct their programs with a spirit of cooperation designed to foster communication and build relationships among landowners, non-landowners and agency representatives. We seek to promote a positive outlook for discussion and acknowledge our responsibility to be good stewards of the land. Our knowledge, our values, and our management of Alabama's forest natural resources are all things we must share with our neighbors.

Summary

All over this country people talk about a general dissatisfaction with the environment and public policy. This suggests that there are possibly millions who have become disconnected from the very land upon which this country was founded. The ATFA is working toward building and restoring those connections between people who are neighbors and the land that has nourished this nation to greatness.

We must train our children and educate the general public so they recognize the value of forest natural resources to our environment and our economy. We must instill in everyone an appreciation for landowners and private land ownership to ensure that our rights as Alabamians and Americans are never diminished or eroded. We must "stay the course" that we have chosen to lead Alabama down the road to forest sustainability. 🌲

Preserving Our Cultural Heritage through Historic Log House Restoration

By TILDA MIMS, Forest Education Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

Log cabins built by generations before us are important symbols of our American history. President William Henry Harrison used the log cabin as a campaign symbol. The log cabin was birthplace and home for Abe Lincoln, as well as other national figures, and assumed by many historians to be the first type of house constructed by English colonists.

The rustic charm of a log cabin is a natural complement to a TREASURE Forest and the style of construction is replicated through many homes, camp-houses and guesthouses in Alabama's forests.

For many landowners, preserving an existing log structure is a practical decision. After all, an old log barn, corncrib or cabin can provide needed equipment shelter and storage space. Others own a log building with special memories and they carefully preserve it and its history for their descendants.

If you enjoy the beauty and history of a log cabin and aren't lucky enough to have one on your property, what do you do? What if an imitation, no matter how realistic, simply won't do?

For TREASURE Forest owners Mike and Cathy Strong, a brief want ad, "Antique House for Sale," in the local paper was the answer. After a close inspection of the Mississippi log house, they decided to buy it and move it to their land in Shelby County.

That was in 1991 and they are currently working on their 11th project. Mike says it is just a hobby, but the joy they find in the process and the enthusiasm with which they share it, truly deserves the cliché "labor of love."

Mike and Cathy have learned a lot about dismantling, transporting and reassembling a log structure in the last 10 years and are more than willing to share their knowledge. However, it is impossible to cover every guideline and pitfall in a single article. So, use this article to learn a brief history of American

log structures and, perhaps, whet an appetite to own your very own.

History of Log Construction

The term *log cabin* generally denotes a simple one and one-half story structure that is somewhat impermanent and less finished or less architecturally sophisticated.

Log house historically means a more permanent, hewn-log dwelling, either one or two stories, of more complex design, often built as a second-generation replacement. One and two-story log houses were built in towns and settlements across the country until about the middle of the 20th century.

Log construction was not invented in the United States, but brought by north-west and central European colonists including Finnish, Swedish, Russian, German and French settlers. Log buildings were known to have been constructed as temporary shelters by soldiers during the Revolutionary War and, across the country, Americans used logs not only to build houses, but also commercial structures, schools, churches, grist-mills, barns, corncribs and a variety of outbuildings.

Settlers adapted their craft of log construction to regional climates, materials and terrains. Sometimes the plan and form of the structure provides clues to the ethnic origin or route of migration of the builder. Wood selection was most likely determined by availability. In Alabama, it was most often heartpine, the wood of the virgin forests of the South. Occasionally, a log home was built of poplar.

The basic unit is a one-room enclosure formed by four log walls joined at their corners, called a single "pen." The single pen was improved by installing interior partitions or by adding another log pen. Some typical plans include: a "continental plan," consisting of a single-pen of three rooms around a central hearth; the "double-pen plan," composed of two contiguous log pens; and the "dogtrot" plan, formed by two pens separated by an open passage space. All of these were typically built in the form of a one or one and one-half story settlement cabins.

Two-story log homes were sometimes built to replace earlier settlement cabins, but just as often the early hewn-log house was retained and enlarged. Each



Sill logs are the large, hand-hewn logs that form the bottom of the house. They are not notched, but joined flush to create a stable foundation.



Relocating an original fireplace is extremely difficult and may be a fire hazard. Authentic-style rock is available and an experienced brick mason can construct a pleasing fireplace and chimney that will protect the heart pine logs from risk of fire.

generation of owners might expand an early log home by adding new log pens, or masonry or wood frame extensions. The addition of a rear ell or link to a freestanding outbuilding was particularly common. Sometimes a second story was added.

Locating Log Structures

While want ads and word of mouth may be the easiest method for finding a log structure to buy, Mike enjoys the process of discovering one. You simply have to learn not to take an old house on face value, how to identify log architecture and not be afraid to get dirty, he says.

Owners of many of the late 18th and 19th century log buildings, particularly east of the Mississippi, successfully concealed all evidence of log construction to reflect newly achieved financial or social status. Interior walls were covered and painted and the exterior was commonly covered with wooden siding or aluminum, vinyl or asbestos.

So, an old farmhouse with lap siding

may actually be the log house you are looking for, Mike says. Start by looking underneath the house. The foundation usually consisted of stone or log piers set on grade. Earliest log cabins and temporary log dwellings were constructed directly onto log pilings but in warm, humid climates or when the home was intended to be permanent, it was more common to use stone piers that allowed air to circulate.



This simple numbering system was used on a corncrib relocated a few years ago.

Atop the piers, look for sill logs, the large, hand-hewed logs forming the bottom of the house. Harder, heavier wood such as white oak were often used as sill logs.

Disassembling

Once you have selected a log building to relocate, physical assessment should be systematic and thorough.

- Take notes, photographs or video recordings, and make drawings that include overall and detail views.
- Remove interior and exterior wood coverings. Preserve these historic materials for other uses.
- Remove the roof, retaining rafters for other uses.
- Number logs so you will know how to reassemble the house. Mike recommends a simple method of nailing canning lids on the ends of the logs with roofing nails and writing an identifying mark on the lid, e.g. LF1 = left front 1. Use a drawing to coordinate this project.

- Relieve logs by removing wooden pins used to secure logs end located at the top of the four corners of the pen.
- Begin removing the logs with a backhoe with straps, a boom truck or by hand.
- Load the logs onto trucks or trailers as you go, loading the sill logs last.

Reassembly

The foundation should drain well and adequately support the building. The sill log should clear the ground by at least eight inches.

- Stack stones from original house to create piers, generally four for a single-pen cabin.
- Decide where you want your doors and windows. Windows in log houses were typically small or non-existent, and door openings were often small.
- Place sill logs making absolutely certain they are level.
- Begin laying courses of logs, checking level as you go.
- Repair or replace decayed logs by plugging or splicing in seasoned wood
- After four walls are in place, add a roof of cedar shake or tin. The style of roof depends on the amount of room you want in the loft.
- If desired, add a porch or additional room to the cabin using reserved wood siding.



Shelby County TREASURE Forest landowners Mike and Cathy Strong have restored several log structures.



Electric lighting does not have to detract from the home's authenticity.

- Modern conveniences can be added without detracting from the simplicity of the cabin through careful camouflage. The Strong's ran central heat and air from underneath the cabin, added electrical outlets in the baseboards and brought wall switches out of door trim.

Chinking

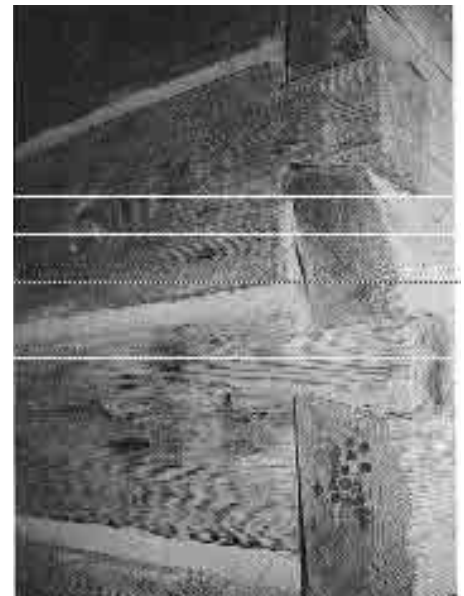
Horizontal spaces or joints between logs were usually filled with a combination of materials that together is known as chinking. First, a dry, bulky, rigid blocking, such as wood slabs or stones were inserted into the joint, followed by a soft packing filler such as moss, clay or dried animal dung. Mixtures of clay, lime, sand and, as binders, animal hair or straw was troweled on to seal the openings. Sometimes, carefully fitted wood strips were nailed lengthwise across the log joints.

Modern chinking is often a commercial mixture of latex and sand, known as Perma-chink. It comes in various colors and, unlike concrete, is pliable enough to expand and contract without cracking. For extra insulation, you may want to insert Styrofoam sheets between the logs, placing strips of hardware cloth on either side to give Perma-chink something to adhere to.

Preserving

In most instances, chemical wood preservatives are not recommended on historic log buildings. Preservatives tend to change the color and appearance of the logs. However, a water sealant may be appropriate for added horizontal surfaces such as a porch.

Mike and Cathy worked closely with an experienced carpenter to complete their first log house restoration project. From beginning to end, it took about three months. Used as a guesthouse, it now rests on a small rise beside the lake



Dove-tail notching provides a tight fit. The slash marks on the logs are a numbering system that indicates the house was once relocated by the owner. The cartridges driven into the logs are probably from the mid 1800s.

on their TREASURE Forest. The property also features a relocated corncrib that was on the site of the new Hoover High School.

Historic properties are lost, often inadvertently, each time a log building is pushed over or burned during the clearing of land.


Like other historic buildings, moved or relocated log structures can suffer a loss of integrity of materials, but often this is the last resort to save them from demolition.

While the Strong's method may not be the most cost-efficient way to get a camphouse on your property, it may be the most rewarding. As Mike likes to say, "If you just want a camphouse, visit Jim Walter. If you want to own a piece of American art, restore a log cabin."

Sources of Information

A National Park Service Brief, "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings" by Bruce Bomberger, 1991.

"Barn Again! Program," National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1997.

www.oldhousejournal.com 

The Alabama Forestry Commission Reaches Out a Helping Hand

By **DANA MCREYNOLDS**, Northeast Region Outreach Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

The Alabama Forestry Commission's latest incentive is to "reach out" to underserved landowners and underrepresented groups. In past years, some forest landowners were not receiving equal access to information, assistance and programs provided for them by the state, federal and local forest agencies. To prevent the problem of unjust prac-

tices, an outreach effort was initiated. This effort is designed to inform landowners who are not knowledgeable about all of the resources available to them. Once the landowners receive information, they will learn that their property provides many positive opportunities if managed effectively and efficiently. These opportunities include maximizing

environmental benefits, wildlife habitat, recreational activities and economic returns.

The outreach effort, however, is not just an effort to inform landowners about forest management opportunities but also to educate students from underrepresented populations about the field of and careers in forestry. When discussing career goals with students, there is an emphasis on career opportunities with the Alabama Forestry Commission. It is hoped that the outreach effort will continue successfully and prevent any confusion and complacency about forestry due to the lack of knowledge and opportunity.

How Does the Outreach Program Work?

The Alabama Forestry Commission's outreach program is ahead of similar programs in other states and is being used as an example of what can and should be done. From January 1999 to July 2000, four outreach foresters were hired, one for each Alabama Forestry Commission region in the state. Unlike other foresters in the regions, the outreach foresters will focus most of their efforts on the underserved and underrepresented populations. How does the outreach program work? To answer that question completely, here is the vision statement for the outreach program and an explanation of the responsibilities of the outreach foresters.

The vision of the Alabama Forestry Commission's outreach program is to engage underserved landowners in enhancing the forest resources in the state by increasing participation, understanding and trust through a focused outreach effort.

In order to begin the process, the outreach forester must first identify the underserved landowners in the region. Using a referral system is the primary

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L-r: James Jennings, Michelle Cole, Dana McReynolds and LaKedra Byrd.

AFC Outreach Foresters

NORTHWEST REGION

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Outreach Forester
P.O. Box 599
Northport, AL 35476
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NORTHEAST REGION

Dana McReynolds
Outreach Forester
244 Goodwin Crest Dr. Ste. G 125
Birmingham, AL 35209
205-916-0569

SOUTHWEST REGION

LaKedra Byrd
Outreach Forester
7575 AL Highway 22
Selma, AL 36701
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334-872-2384

SOUTHEAST REGION

Michelle Cole
Outreach Forester
2181 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36109
1-800-392-5679
334-242-5585

Discovering Historic Sites on Your Property

By TERESA PAGLIONE, Cultural Resources Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

What could be perceived as an eroding ravine may in fact be an old road. This old federal road is in Chambers County.

If you take note of the ground surface while walking along the old trails and backroads of your property, you may recognize the signs of prehistoric or historic activities. The clues to Alabama's heritage are surprisingly common on the landscape. There are traces of past events, lifeways, and communities in private backyards, pastures, forests, rivers, streambeds, open waters and shorelines. Most sites, whether prehistoric or historic, are not easily discovered unless plowed or otherwise exposed. However, the superficial suggestions of past activities may be recognized when you understand what may have caused the varying landscape features you have seen in the woods.

Past Seen in Artifacts

The story of Alabama's prehistoric past is seen in artifact scatters (broken pottery, lithic or



This dry rock chimney is evidence of a historic house site.

stone chips and flakes, etc.), single artifact finds (an arrowhead or projectile point), mounds and mound complexes (Oakville and Bottle Creek), carved or painted rocks (the Sun Circle petroglyph and the Painted Bluff pictograph). They are found in rockshelters, caves and bluffshelters (Russell Cave, Dust Cave, Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter), on the floodplains and terraces of the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Tennessee, Alabama, Tombigbee, Mobile and Black Warrior Rivers and their tributaries. They are habitation areas: single-use hunting camps, seasonal campsites, farming hamlets, permanent villages and even townsites; or site-specific activity areas: cemeteries, fishweirs and quarries.

Alabama's historic past is found in many of the same locations as the prehistoric sites since the needs and wants of peoples remain essentially the same throughout time: food,



Old cemeteries found in Alabama range from unmarked grave sites to the more formal, such as this one with rock walls.



Brick fragments are a clue that a home was once nearby.

shelter and water. There are uncounted historic artifact scatters and isolated artifact finds, trash dumps, isolated historic houses and farmsteads, covered bridges, small communities and towns. There are also battlefields and forts dating from before the Revolutionary War through the War of 1812, the 1813-1814 Creek Indian War, the Civil War, and even World War I and II (Fort Conde, Fort Toulouse, Fort Morgan, Horseshoe Bend, Fort Mitchell and Janney Furnace), and there are the homes of early settlers and famous Alabamians (Pond Spring/ Joe Wheeler Plantation, Magnolia Grove).

Correspondingly, there are remnants of single and multi-use activity sites: the few broken pieces of corrugated clay pots used in the turpentine industry, the

barrel hoops from a moonshine still, the burnt wood and ash mound from a limestone kiln, the rock terraces from farming, or the hundreds of broken pottery pieces associated with the pottery-making industry. Even the single unmarked gravesite or the more formally recognized cemetery with more than a hundred marked graves represents activity areas.

Other than the fact that prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded in Alabama, a strong connection is that almost all of these sites occur on private property. Some sites have been preserved by private citizens; some have been preserved through the actions of local communities, governments and agencies; many have been preserved and donated

to the citizens of Alabama. These sites were, for the most part, almost instantly recognized as records of past activities and unique examples of our local, state and national heritage (Moundville, Confederate Memorial Park, Mobile Middle Bay Lighthouse).

Other sites or records of past lifeways are not so easily discerned. The presence of a historic house site may not be so obvious as rock foundation walls or a still-standing structure such as a dry-rock (no mortar) chimney. Collapsed walls that have formed a small linear rise, maybe in the shape of a square or rectangle, may represent the house. On the other hand, the house may have been “robbed” of whole bricks and logs or planks (re-used in the new place!), leaving only a scatter of brick fragments and bent or discarded nails. Then again, the house may have been razed and pretty much all that is left is a dozed pile of topsoil, broken glass, broken ceramics, and broken bricks. Or, there may be a small round depression (a well that has been filled) or a deep hole that represents an uncapped abandoned well. It may be that the entire house was dismantled and moved to another location, in which case there may only be a few corner foundation rocks—large stone slabs that held a frame house off the ground.

Perhaps the old ravine that has been eroding “since time began” is really an old roadbed, cut deep by natural erosion hurried along by the hoofs and wheels of horses, carriages, wagons and early auto-



Remains of a collapsed rock wall belonging to an old house.

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Historical Sites

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mobiles, then abandoned when landowners moved or another nearby road was cleared or more tolerable and less abused. Then again, that old road may be the very same one you travel on every day—but now it is a county or state road that has been maintained with few changes in alignment. Or maybe it has recently been converted to a hiking or biking trail for recreational use.

On second thought, that old raised roadbed may not be the typical roadway most people think about. There are hundreds of old railroad spurs abandoned after the timbering industry disappeared in the early 1900s. There are also a few pre-Civil War railroad beds still in existence—minus the wooden ties, iron spikes, tieplates and other fixtures. This railroad “furniture” is long gone—reused on another railroad or melted for use during the Civil War or even WWII!

Historic Sites Disappearing

More than a million archaeological sites have been recorded in the United States; in Alabama, more than 25,000 sites have been documented by professional and avocational archaeologists and landowners. Over half of the prehistoric and historic sites are on privately owned forestland, cropland and grazing land. However, that being said, not all properties have been archaeologically surveyed and not all sites have been officially reported, much less discovered. There are literally thousands of unknown archeological sites that have yet to be located in Alabama. In fact, the specific locations of more than a few places that are known to exist are actively being researched and sought, especially those associated with the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto's expedition and the Native American towns he visited (most especially Mauvilla).

Unfortunately, the total number of archaeological sites is rapidly disappearing due to development, looting (illegal digging for personal profit or gains), erosion and other natural factors. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates that at least one out of five known sites is affected by some sort of land management activity or practice.

The preservation of the majority of these known and yet to be discovered non-renewable resources largely depends upon the individual efforts of private landowners. The state and the federal government have major responsibilities as a result of historic preservation laws, but these laws do not apply to private properties unless there are federal funds, assistance, or permits associated with private projects.

To protect sites, landowners are encouraged to assess the natural and cultural resources (archaeological and historic sites) they own and develop land use management plans that limit the adverse effects of conservation practices or consider practices that may provide benefits and actually protect the traces of Alabama heritage. In addition, there are some tax benefits and incentives available for engaging in conservation easements to protect sites and reduce the tax burden (which may be based on development potential). Income taxes may be lowered by donations or bargain sales of easements to the Archaeological Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, or other non-profit groups and estate tax savings are possible with the donation of easements in perpetuity for conservation purposes.

For More Information

For more information regarding archeology, or for assistance in preparing conservation plans to protect archaeological and historic sites, please contact your local NRCS field office for the NRCS cultural resources specialist. Additional sources of information include the Alabama Historical Commission (www.preserveala.org), the Alabama Archaeological Society (www.gulfmart.com/org/aas/welcomehp.htm) and Alabama's universities (http://prism.troyst.edu/~tsu_arch/; <http://bama.ua.edu/~cmeyer/oasweb.htm>; www.auburn.edu; and www.southalabama.edu/archaeology/old_mobile/).

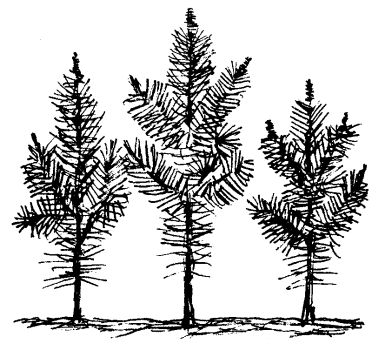
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Alabama's Sustainable Forests

A promise is a promise . . .

In 1995, members of the American Forest and Paper Association united in a formal commitment to engage in practices that promote the wise use of our abundant forest resource. In adopting the Sustainable Forestry InitiativeSM Program, a promise was made to practice responsible forestry and to keep you, the public, up to date on our progress.



Specifically, we will . . .

- Reforest harvested areas promptly!
- Ensure maintenance of water quality!
- Enhance wildlife habitat!

Let us know . . .

If you have a comment or question about a forest operation you've witnessed and which is of interest or concern to you, we want to know about it, too.

So call us, toll free at

1-800-206-0981

Alabama Sustainable
Forestry InitiativeSM Program
555 Alabama Street
Montgomery, AL 36104-4395

Outreach

Continued from page 27

method to achieve this goal. The outreach forester can receive a list of names from community organizations, educational institutions, federal agencies, state agencies, and even from other landowners. From this collection of names, the outreach forester can establish a landowner database.

Once the underserved landowners are identified, the outreach forester will contact these landowners and build a trusting relationship. The outreach forester can contact landowners at churches, schools, community organizations, social events and field tours. By attending these functions the outreach forester can encourage the landowners present to meet, visit and discuss their concerns with other landowners.

Grass Carp


Continued from page 14

Large grass carp will injure fingerling catfish by thrashing and jumping in the harvesting seines. Workers who harvest catfish in ponds stocked with grass carp can also be injured from jumping grass carp and should be made aware of this potential danger.

Restocking Grass Carp

When compared with other mechanical and chemical methods, the use of grass carp to control weeds in ponds is inexpensive. Results usually last about five years. You should restock grass carp at the first sign of weed growth.

Grass carp are very active swimmers and jumpers. Entire populations have been lost through spillways during heavy rains. Ponds that overflow should be equipped with spillway barriers that prevent fish from escaping. For more information on how to construct a spillway barrier, contact your local Extension office for a copy of Circular ANR-326, "Spillway Barriers for Farm Ponds."


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Now that the outreach forester has empowered landowners to take an active role in managing their property, the next plan of action is to assess what needs to be done. The outreach forester will ask the landowners about their interests and objectives and apply the available training, financial and technical assistance needed to accomplish their goals. Several visits to the landowner's property will be necessary to assess the situation.

To serve landowners further, the outreach forester must deliver services to the landowners when possible or refer the landowners to other agencies that can. Some of the services provided by the outreach forester include writing management plans and assisting them with cost-share applications. Also, the outreach forester will inform landowners about meetings, workshops, tours, or any other activity that will enhance their

knowledge and accomplish their goals.

To complete the outreach success, the outreach forester must maintain contact with the underserved landowners, encourage them to take advantage of the available opportunities, and empower them to serve as role models for other landowners.

Even though the outreach effort is the main responsibility of the outreach forester, it is also the responsibility of all the employees in the Alabama Forestry Commission. If there are landowners not knowledgeable about the resources and opportunities available to them, then they need the agency's assistance. For further information about the Alabama Forestry Commission's outreach program, contact the state office in Montgomery or one of the outreach foresters. 

AWF and AFC Team Up for Seedling Giveaway

Approximately 90,000 tree seedlings beneficial to wildlife will be given away in late February by the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) and the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC). Mixed packages of 25 seedlings containing sawtooth oak, water oak, white mulberry, persimmon, Allegheny chinkapin, and other species that provide soft or hard mast beneficial to a variety of wildlife, will be given away through AFC personnel and AWF volunteers across the state. The seedlings are provided by the AFC, which grows them at the Hopper Nursery in Cullman, Alabama.

To reserve your pack of 25 wildlife seedlings, contact the Alabama Wildlife Federation in Montgomery at 334-832-9453 and provide your name, address, phone number and county where you live. In mid-February, you will be notified by mail of the date, time, and location for picking up the seedlings in your county. Supplies are limited in each county, so secure your pack early.

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Southern Magnolia

By COLEEN VANSANT, Alabama Forestry Commission, Cullman, Alabama

The Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* L.) is a magnificent tree of Southern legends. Under its protective sprawling bows promises have been made, hearts have been broken, and artists and songwriters have been inspired. There is nothing like a sultry summer evening in the South splashed with the lemony fragrance of the Southern magnolia.

The magnolia is an emblem of the South. They are as Southern as wide front porches, hunting dogs, and pecan pies. We think so much of them we even at times refer to our women folk with the term "steel magnolias." This term describes women that have a will as strong as the rugged trunk while at the same time possessing the gentleness and grace of the fragrant flower.

In the Deep South, magnolias can be found on many old plantations and farms, gracing lawns in both the county and the city, and in old cemeteries. Today, the Southern magnolia has become extremely popular as a landscaping ornamental.

The magnolia tree grows 60 to 100 feet in height and has a crown spread of 30 to 50 feet. It can have a diameter of up to 4 feet. The tree needs plenty of



room to grow and is pyramidal in shape. It grows at a medium rate and its branches drape to the ground, which makes it virtually impossible to plant anything under it.

Magnolia grandiflora testifies to the fact that it bears large flowers, 6 to 8 and sometimes 12 inches across. The creamy white flower has a lemony fragrance. Many a Southern bride has planned her wedding around the peak of the magnolia blossom. Flowering begins in late May-early June and continues sporadi-

cally all summer. Trees usually begin flowering within 10 years of being grown from a seed.

Its leaves are shiny bright green on the upper surfaces with rusty-colored fuzz on the underside. Leaves are oblong, bluntly pointed, 5-8 inches long and 2-3 inches wide. The fruit is an aggregate made up of numerous pod-like structures that each contains 2-3 crimson seeds. The fruit is reddish as it forms, turning brown and fuzzy as it matures. Seeds hang from the pods on slender stalks when ripe. The leaves drop the second year after the tree has bloomed in June. In the South, the bright green waxy leaves of the magnolia are used for decorations at weddings and during holidays.

The bark varies from gray to brown and becomes scaly with age. Twigs are stout and have conspicuous rings at the node. As in all of the magnolias, a single scale covers the bud.

The magnolia grows throughout the South on rich moist soil. The wood is hard and heavy. It is utilized for crates, boxes and some rough flooring. Squirrels and wild turkeys eat the fruit in the fall months. 🌳



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