

Alabama's TREASURED Forests



S P R I N G · 1 9 8 5

STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

by C.W. MOODY



President John Kennedy made the following statement which most of us recall. *"Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather ask what you can do for your country."* This profound statement is relevant to all generations of Americans, but especially to TREASURE Forest landowners of today. This country has been good to us. Our forests not only reflect upon our own stewardship, but also in most cases reflect upon the stewardship of Alabamians and Americans who were here before us.

TREASURE Forest means good stewardship, and participating landowners are not only providing for their own needs, but also are concerned about those generations which will follow. TREASURE Forest owners of today are indeed among our most responsible stewards, and I am therefore not reluctant to ask you to also become missionaries for the TREASURE Forest principle. Many times today we can see a television preacher asking those of us watching, to "plant a seed." Most times that means he wants us to send money, but the implication is that we are helping to spread his version of the gospel. I am asking TREASURE Forest owners to cause their TREASURE Forests to begin to produce seed in their communities. You are generally considered to be leading landowners and therefore are in a unique position to influence your neighbors in the management of their forests.

During the next few weeks the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee will be considering how to formalize a program of involving TREASURE Forest landowners in "Preaching the Word." In the meantime, if you have the opportunity, I certainly encourage you to educate your neighbors on the concepts and advantages of TREASURE Forest management. If we can be of assistance to you in this mission or any other way, please let us know.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C.W. Moody". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

COMMISSIONERS

G. A. Gibbs Joe McCorquodale
 Chairman *Vice Chairman*

Scott Langley W.H. (Billy) Stimpson

J. B. Neighbors Kelly Sistrunk

 Homajean Grisham

STATE FORESTER

C. W. Moody

ASSISTANT STATE FORESTER

Charles A. Pigg

ALABAMA FORESTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama Department of Education, Vocational Division, Agribusiness Education
Alabama Forestry Commission
Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University
School of Agriculture, Forestry and Biological Sciences, Auburn University
Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University
USDA—Farmers Home Administration
USDA—Forest Service
USDA—Soil Conservation Service
USDA—Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Tennessee Valley Authority

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.

EDITOR

Cynthia K. Page

ASSISTANT TO EDITOR

Anita Benton

TECHNICAL EDITOR

Timothy C. Boyce

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Neil Letson

CIRCULATION STAFF

Louis Hyman
Sue Smitherman

TECHNICAL ADVISORS: Louis Hyman, Forest Management; James Hyland, Pest Management; Robert Kucera, Pathology and Water Quality; Gary Faulkner, Utilization; Neil Letson, TREASURE Forests; Walter Vest, Forest Law Enforcement; Ray Tucker, Rural Community Fire Protection; Hugh Mobley, Forest Fire Protection; Ray Jones, Forest Fire Protection; Bill Padgett, Forest Nurseries; Tom Cambre, Hardwoods; John Kelly, Forest Economics.

Cover Photo: Keep America Beautiful's "Crying Indian," Iron Eyes Cody, in a television scene promoting Alabama's TREASURE Forests. Photo by Charles Seifried, Sayers, Martin & Seifried Advertising Agency in Huntsville.

Alabama's TREASURED Forests

Volume IV

Spring Issue, 1985

Number 2

CONTENTS

Millwood's a Hardwood Haven	4
By CYNTHIA K. PAGE, Editor	
Managing an Urban Forest	6
By NANCY MICHEL, Dothan Progress Reporter; and BARRY LAWRENCE, Staff Forester, District 6	
Forest Management Begins With The Soil	9
By Jerry Johnson, Forester, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service	
After The Iceman Cometh	10
By LOU HYMAN, Chief Forest Management	
Starting from Scratch—Direct Seeding	12
By ROBERT DISMUKES, District Forester, Brewton	
Ticket to Ride	13
By BRIAN BRADLEY, RCD Forester, Ozark	
Gray Squirrel	14
By ROBERT WATERS, Wildlife Biologist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service	
The Professional Forester	17
By WILBUR B. DE VALL, R.F., Professor Emeritus of Forestry Auburn University	
Landowners Legislative Alert	
NATIONAL—By J. KENNETH MYERS, U.S.D.A. Forest Service	20
STATE—By FRANK SEGO, Legislative Liaison, Alabama Forestry Commission	21
Checking Seedling Survival	24
By DON BURDETTE, Forester, Information and Education, Alabama Forestry Commission	
Why Treasure Forest?	25
By NEIL LETSON, Treasure Forest Coordinator	
Wildfire—A Threat To Southern Forests	26
By HUGH E. MOBLEY, Fire Section Chief, Alabama Forestry Commission	
Crying Indian Smiles About Alabama's Treasure	28
Soil and Water Conservation—Half Century of Progress	30
By MORRIS GILLESPIE, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service	

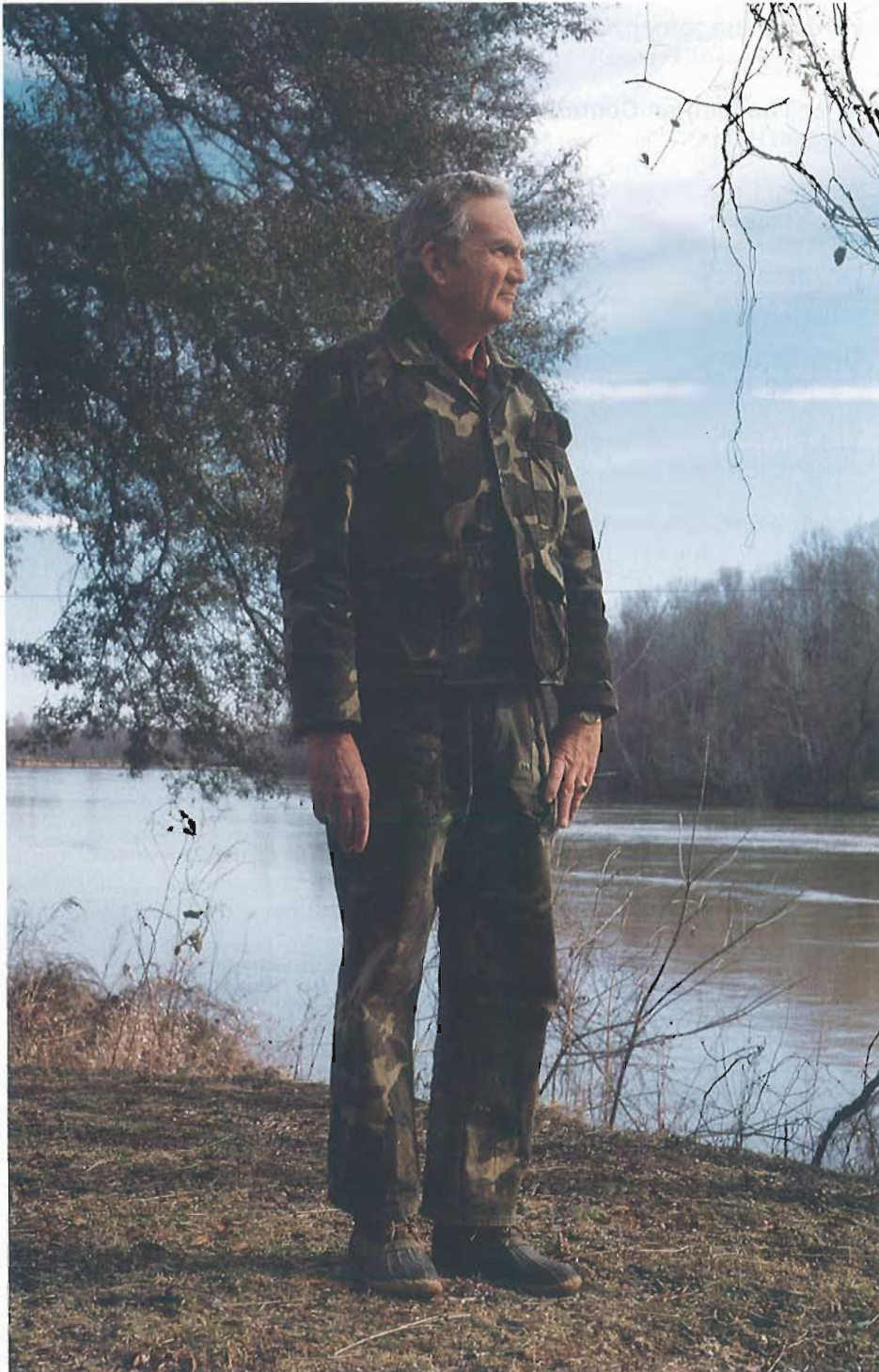
DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Understory	19	Activities	22
Calendar	30		

Alabama's *Treasured Forests* is published quarterly by the Alabama Forestry Commission, 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130. Telephone 261-2525. Bulk-rate postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **Alabama's Treasured Forests**, 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130.

Millwood's a Hardwood Haven

By CYNTHIA K. PAGE, Editor



CAMOUFLAGED NETTING on the deer stand rippled back and forth in the gentle breeze. A hawk gracefully glided overhead silhouetted against puffy clouds and a crystal blue sky. Off in the distance, a turkey's call beckoned to companions. An artisan well babbled and splashed in the nearby pond while squirrels darted up the oak tree at its edge. Truly George Wright and his sister Camille Cook own a hunter's paradise, and rightfully so, for more than 1900 acres out of 3200 are in hardwoods!

Wright, Federal Bankruptcy Judge in Tuscaloosa, and his sister, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Law Professor of the University of Alabama's Law School, inherited this parcel by chance, merely a "lucky" draw. In 1962 a rather sizeable portion was bequeathed to heirs who drew cards designating which parcel each would receive. A four of spades represented Millwood, a one time inn for river travelers on the Black Warrior.

Prolific Wildlife

An enchanting riverside village, Millwood had long been a favorite hunting place for family and friends. Since George and his sister Camille inherited it in 1962, many changes have taken place in the management of the acreage. Millwood was leased to Millwood Hunting Club whose president, Lew Bostick, Jr., began to work to improve the wildlife production. Bostick and Wright, who favors timber production, have mostly compatible objectives, but compromise in a spirit of cooperation on any opposing viewpoints.

Bostick asked Dr. Francis Leuth, a wildlife biologist, to conduct a study of the property and make recommendations. Food plots were established in many locations to supplement the mast from hardwoods. Since so many deer were present, the biologist suggested that up to 50 does a year be harvested. Without these precautions, a resultant overpopulation could cause a die-out as well as hamper regeneration in hardwood stands as deer will graze heavily on young sprouts.



Besides deer, there are also substantial numbers of turkey, quail, ducks, rabbits, and squirrel. A photograph by this editor turned up another surprise—Canadian geese! In one day our group encountered between 75-100 deer in herds, 15 turkeys, numerous squirrels, rabbits, and even a blue heron!

Beavers are also present, but Judge Wright works to keep their damage under control. In one project, he blasted several beaver dams and drained more than 250 acres which later sprouted into cypress. In addition, he allows trapping of the fur-bearing critters.

The old inn, equipped with a kitchen, serves as the clubhouse. Adjacent to it is an old servant's quarters which has been renovated and is used as a weekend retreat by the Wrights and Cooks. A large walk-in freezer at the rear of the clubhouse keeps game meat fresh. Part of the lease agreement calls for maintenance of the food plots by club members. Judge Wright supplies the equipment and the 32 club members share the responsibilities!

Wright has also started a new project—catfish farming! With the help of the Soil Conservation Service, he has dug 12 ponds covering 75 acres to supply fingerlings for Alabama's growing catfish industry.



Judge and Mrs. Wright, Lew Bostick enjoy the tranquility of Millwood

Quality Timber

Certainly not all of the attention has centered on wildlife. Timber has been of primary concern. A clearcut in the early 1940's left very little because prices were high during World War II. Most of the present stocking is between 40 to 60 years old, close to the end of rotation age. Some scattered hickory and white oak is considerably older.

Closed canopies and a heavy deer population have hampered advanced regeneration. Wright will thin some of these areas to encourage regeneration prior to a final cut. He also will thin some surrounding areas, within one-fourth of a mile, to distract deer that might browse on the young sprouts.

Additionally, he has converted the high sandy ridges to pine. This has been extremely successful for the most part. One plot, however, proved a bit too sandy and the young pines "burned" from excessive sun and heat.

A natural levee approximately 600 feet wide is being regenerated to oaks, sweetgum, and sycamore. Again, other areas will be cleared nearby to distract the deer. Also, the windrows from these clearings will be piled and left to provide cover for turkey and quail along the edges.

When Wright's plan is complete, over 1000 acres of pine will exist and close to 2000 acres will remain in hardwoods. The rest of the acreage is in a campsite, food plots, and ponds.

Problems In Paradise

As already mentioned, a heavy deer population can create problems with natural or artificial regeneration. When numbers reach beyond the carrying capacity of the land, deer will eat any tender browse within their reach. Young hardwood sprouts are quite attractive.



Recently planted pines show signs of overpopulated deer herds.

Additionally deer will eat the terminal buds of pine seedlings. Wright has recently discovered an entire field of pine seedlings which must be replanted. This can be avoided by using seedlings treated with a repellent. Wright has decided that a new study might be needed by a wildlife biologist for recommendations on his current population.

Of course, beavers have also been mentioned. Between the trapping and destroying beaver dams, the problem is controlled as best as possible. However, being situated on the Black Warrior makes the battle a constant one as the little critters migrate along the waterway.

Expected Income

Under the present plan, Wright will use a 40 year rotation on pines and a 60 year rotation on hardwoods. Cutting 135 acres of pine and 165 acres of hardwoods every five years, he can expect the following returns:

PINE

135 acres × 3100 Bf Doyle × \$120/Mbf
= \$50,220 gross income

135 acres × \$210/acre pine established cost
= \$28,350

\$50,200 - \$28,350
= \$21,870 gross net income

HARDWOOD

165 acres × 3400 Bf Doyle × \$135/Mbf
= \$75,735

165 acres × \$60/acre reestablishment cost
= \$9,900

\$75,735 - \$9,900
= \$65,835 gross net

TOTAL INCOME (Every 5-year cycle)

Income	Expense
Pine \$50,220	\$28,350
Hardwood 75,735	9,900
Total \$125,995	\$38,250
= \$87,705	

Summary

Judge Wright is quite distinguished with blue eyes and graying hair and is probably most impressive in his black robes sitting behind a massive bench. However, he looks "at home" in his camouflage pants and shirt, boots, and sporting around in a four-wheel-drive Bronco. Just goes to show you, it takes all kinds, but one thing is for sure—all of the landowners we have interviewed have one common tie. They all love their land. To them it is almost alive and breathing. Perhaps its immortality is a luxury each landowner feels by giving something of himself to its perpetuation. ♣

Managing an Urban Forest

By NANCY MICHEL, Dothan Progress Reporter; and BARRY LAWRENCE, Staff Forester, District 6

SAY THE WORD “FOREST” and most people think of a rural tract of land covered with trees. But forests don’t exist only in the countryside. Look down on a city from an airplane and you’ll see the green of an urban forest, just as important in its own way as rural forests are. And, just like rural forests, an urban forest needs to be managed.

Although a city’s trees may not directly relate to its economy, they affect the community in other ways. They cleanse the air and absorb loud noises. They break the wind, camouflage harsh scenery, and block out unwanted light. They soften the drab visual effects of urban buildings and help control temperature extremes. They provide a sanctuary for birds and other urban wildlife and, perhaps most importantly, offer an atmosphere of mental relaxation for people from the everyday turmoils associated with city life.

All too often, management of a city’s tree resources is nonexistent. Dead trees aren’t removed, and new trees are planted haphazardly, if at all, and then are not cared for. If the

maximum benefits are to be realized from an urban forest, it must be managed just like any other forest should be.

Generally, about half of a city’s trees are on public property—along streets, in parks, and around public buildings. It is important, therefore, that cities initiate ongoing urban forestry programs. The TREE CITY USA program is designed to encourage the implementation of local tree management programs and recognize those communities that are effectively managing their tree resources.

Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities, this national program sets forth four standards which must be met before a city receives the award, which is given not simply for pretty trees but for the program that makes them pretty. A legally constituted municipal tree body and a city tree ordinance must provide the structure for the town’s

urban forest program. The town’s program for planting, maintenance, and removal of trees must be judged successful by the state forester’s office, and Arbor Day must be observed annually to create an awareness and appreciation of trees among the town’s residents.

Qualifying cities receive a TREE CITY USA flag, plaque, and road signs to place at community entrances. Presently, only seventeen Alabama municipalities have been recognized as TREE CITIES. They are Dadeville, Eufaula, Foley, Linden, Livingston, Loxley, Mobile, Prattville, Selma, Silverhill, York, Robertsdale, Leeds, Clanton, Auburn, Montgomery, and Summerdale.

A potential lawsuit got the urban forest management ball rolling in Eufaula. A large, old water oak on city property was leaning dangerously toward a private citizen’s home. Urban forester Barry Lawrence from the District 6 office was called in for consultation. Upon his recommendation, a tree surgeon heavily pruned the tree to remove weight on the side toward the home. The tree was saved, the homeowner was satisfied, a potential lawsuit was averted, and the city fathers became aware of the need for better management of Eufaula’s trees.

Eufaula is a historic town built on the bluffs of the Chattahoochee River in southeast Alabama. Its residents were proud of their city’s antebellum charm and eager to enhance the town’s beauty, but their efforts were without leadership or overall plan. Until February, 1982, when the city council passed a tree ordinance that established a tree commission, trees were planted, cared for, and removed haphazardly. Plantings were done mainly by interested individuals, garden clubs, and schools. Tree maintenance and removal needs were decided as hazardous conditions developed.

The main function of the tree board is to develop and coordinate the town’s comprehensive tree management program and advise the council on tree-related matters. Fred Clark, a native of Eufaula and chairman



Under the city’s tree management plan, diseased oaks and distracting dead snags were removed from the grounds around Eufaula’s City Hall, where the TREE CITY USA flag is proudly flown beneath the state flag. (Photo by Nancy Michel)



of a savings and loan institution there, took on the chairmanship of the eight-member volunteer tree commission. Clark, a former councilman, has a reputation for getting the job done, and he is interested in promoting a pretty town.

With the mayor and council committed to active management of the city's trees, it was essential as a first step to determine exactly what Eufaula's tree resources were. Lawrence and other AFC personnel surveyed all of the city's trees on public property and inventoried them according to number, species, size, and condition. The survey also identified unique or rare trees and areas for future plantings.

The final tally showed a total of 1,613 trees, with dogwood, winged elm, pecan, crepe myrtle, and water oak, in that order, making up nearly 77 percent of the total tree population. Thirty different species were identified, and 80 percent of the trees were judged to be in good to excellent condition.

With the Forestry Commission's report and recommendations in hand, the tree board set to work. They saw to it that dead, diseased, unsightly, or hazardous trees were eventually removed or appropriately pruned. For instance, when the town's new city hall was landscaped, old, diseased oaks were removed from the site, and distracting, bare snags were pruned from the trees behind the building, all according to recommendations from the AFC urban forester.

Garden clubs and civic groups were encouraged to participate in planned programs of beautification. Eufaula's five garden clubs cooperate in developing and

maintaining an arboretum where "people can go to celebrate or meditate," according to its dedication plaque. Certain trees in the arboretum were marked by AFC personnel for removal for various reasons, and those recommendations have been carried out. The garden clubs are also responsible for other small parks and landscaped boulevard medians in the city. The Lions Club has spent \$1,000 on trees to provide beauty and shade at a recently developed recreation complex called Old Creek Town Park.

A tree planting plan was developed to diversify the species of trees growing in Eufaula to prevent an epidemic specific to one particular species from wiping out a large portion of the city's trees. At the present, dogwoods account for 31 percent and winged elms 13 percent of Eufaula's trees. Lawrence's recommendation is that no one species should comprise more than 10 percent of the total tree population. "The cost of replanting an entire species would put a strain on the budget, and the character of the city would be changed drastically should an epidemic occur," he pointed out, "and both these species are subject to a large number of diseases that could conceivably eliminate them from the city forest." Planned tree plantings began last fall and will continue over the next few years.

One of the requirements for TREE CITY USA status set by the Arbor Day Foundation is that a minimum of one dollar per capita be spent on the municipal forestry program. Qualifying expenditures, however, include the cost of such maintenance as city crews picking up limbs and debris from yards and utility

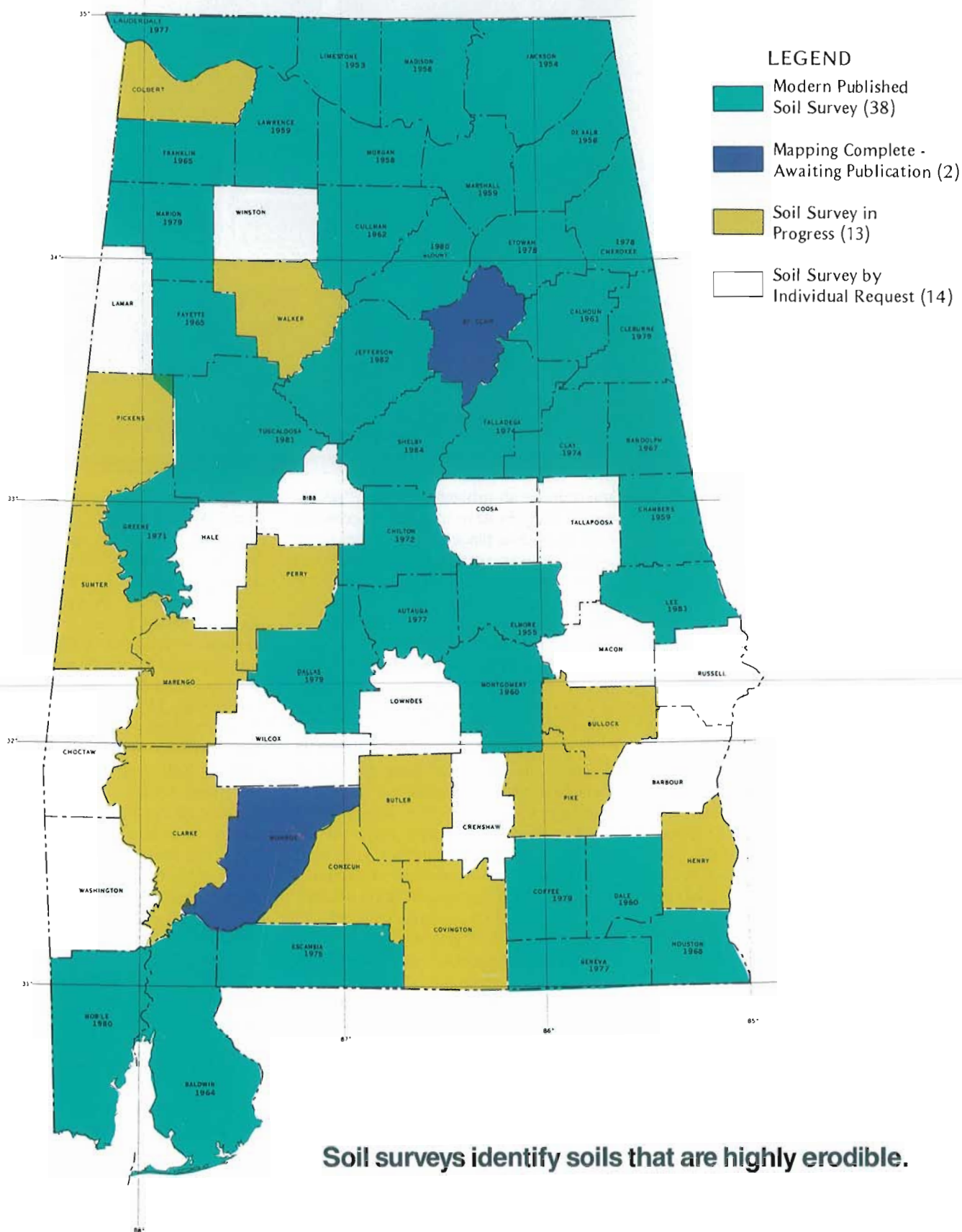
companies trimming limbs away from power lines. When Eufaula totaled these types of expenses, it found it was spending about \$60,000 a year, far exceeding the requirement for its population of 12,500.

A year after its city tree ordinance was formally passed by the council, Eufaula's application to become a TREE CITY USA was approved by the National Arbor Day Foundation. In Arbor Week ceremonies held on February 24, 1983, State Forester C. W. Moody presented Eufaula Mayor George E. Little with the TREE CITY USA flag, plaque, and road signs. The city was recertified in 1984.

The Alabama Forestry Commission will continue to work with Eufaula's tree board to identify problems, work out solutions, and give technical advice. "But once the program gets rolling, we back away and let the city carry on with it," Lawrence noted. He said goals presently set forth for Eufaula are maintaining and improving the trees already there, diversifying the species of trees in Eufaula, and eventually expanding the management area beyond the downtown business and residential areas.

"There's not a lot of romance in what we are doing," Clark said matter-of-factly. "But the board is needed to put discipline into the program. I think we can get the job done." ♣

Further information about the TREE CITY USA program is available from the National Arbor Day Foundation, Arbor Lodge 100, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 402 474-5655 or your Alabama Forestry Commission Office.



Soil surveys identify soils that are highly erodible.

Forest Management Begins With The Soil

by Jerry Johnson, Forester, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

GOOD FOREST MANAGEMENT begins with the soil. Why? Because to a large extent the growth of trees is regulated by the soil. Some landowners believe that all soils are about the same when it comes to growing trees, but that's not true. The truth is that soils vary a great deal in their ability to grow trees.

Site Index

The productivity of a particular site is measured by what's commonly called "site index." It's the average height in feet that dominant and codominant trees of a certain species will reach at a specified age. The age used for nearly all species in Alabama is either 25 or 50 years. If a forester tells you that 40 acres has a site index of 80, then at 50 years of age the dominant and codominant trees on that site will be 80 feet in height. The higher the index the better the site for growing trees. If the site index of a site is known, potential yields can be determined from yield tables. This information can be used in economic analyses.

Sometimes it's impossible to get site index measurements because the trees may be too young or too old to make that determination, or there may not be any trees growing on the site. In such cases, site index can be obtained from information collected by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). SCS started collecting information on soils and site index during the mid 50's. Since then statistics have been collected from more than 1100 sites. These plots are stored in computers and can be retrieved for a particular soil within a county, a land resource area, a state, or even a group of states.

Soil Surveys

Soil-site information is included in soil survey reports. By October 1, 1984 about 73 percent of the state or about 24 million acres had been mapped. This includes 38 counties with modern published soil survey reports, 2 counties where mapping is complete and reports are awaiting publication, and 13 counties where soil surveys are being made.

Soils not only determine the productivity of a forest site, they also affect forest

management. Soil surveys contain information that helps owners of forest land to accomplish the following:

1. *Interpret information on soil productivity*—Productivity information helps the landowner know the potential of his land for growing trees and helps him select sites that are not productive. It also helps him set priorities for thinning, reforestation, and other practices.
2. *Determine erosion hazards*—Erosion hazards warn the landowner of erosion problems that can result from forest management practices, especially if they are not applied correctly. Harvesting and site preparation practices should be done in ways that minimize soil disturbance.
3. *Determine equipment limitations*—The nature of some soils limits or prevents the use of certain equipment for harvesting, site preparation and planting. Management activities may be changed to avoid problems related to weather. Steep slopes may also limit the type of equipment.
4. *Determine planting needs*—Soils are an important factor to consider in selecting species for planting or management on a particular site. The mortality of seedlings varies on different types of soils. If seedling mortality is a problem, the rate of planting may be increased. On wet soils, planting on elevated beds may be needed.
5. *Plan harvesting methods*—Soil surveys identify soils which have high water tables or wetness problems. Windthrow can be a problem on soils with high water tables because trees on those soils have shallow roots. Some soils with wetness problems may be severely compacted during logging operations. To avoid compacting the soil, harvesting operations should be done during dry seasons.
6. *Locate access roads*—Soils that contain sand, gravel or sandy clay are best for roads because when wet they are more stable than clayey soils. If this problem cannot be avoided, special designs and structures can be used to overcome many of the soil limitations.
7. *Select the best method of preparing sites*

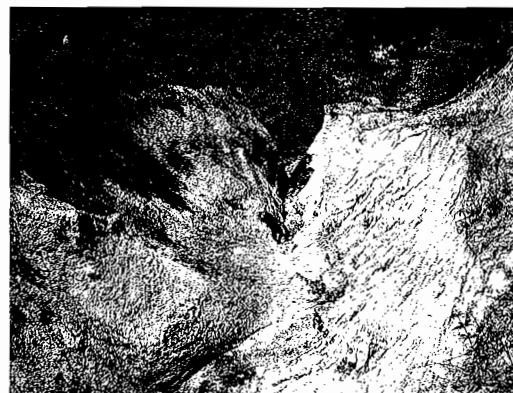
for reforestation—Competition from unwanted plants varies from site to site depending primarily on productivity and wetness of soils. Soils that are productive and wet favor these unwanted plants. Therefore, such soils require a higher level of preparation before reforestation than do sites that are less favorable.

8. *Determine the potential of soils for wildlife habitat*—Certain soils are better than others for producing food and cover for game and other wildlife. Soil surveys provide landowners with information which may be used to determine the potential of specific sites for producing wildlife habitat.
9. *Develop recreation areas*—Soil surveys identify the suitability of soil for recreational uses such as camping, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding and playing. Proper selection of recreational sites can avoid problems such as erosion and soil compaction.

Where can forest landowners obtain modern published soil surveys? As mentioned before, soil surveys are now available for 38 counties in Alabama. You can obtain copies of modern published soil surveys from either your local SCS or Alabama Cooperative Extension Service office. If you own land in a county where no modern published soil survey is available, you may be able to obtain soil survey information from your local SCS office.

Base your forest management program on solid ground—use soil surveys! ♣

Soil erosion on Smithdale soil.





After The Iceman Cometh

By LOU HYMAN, Chief Forest Management

ALABAMA HAS BEEN KNOWN as the “heart of the sunny South,” but every so often bad weather sneaks in and surprises us. In 1979, Hurricane Frederic raked Southwest Alabama. This last winter, it was North Alabama’s turn, as ice storm after ice storm turned the area into a winter-terror-land. For days, people shivered in the dark to the sound of snapping tree branches. Most of the attention was focused on the problems of the people in town, but your forests suffered too.

Now that the ice has melted, it is time to examine your woods and clean up the mess. There are several questions you need to ask. *How badly are my woods damaged? What types of damage are present? What will happen to my trees? How do I clean it up? How do I sell damaged timber? What effect will this have on me financially?* This article will try to answer these questions.

How Bad Is It?

The first question that needs to be asked is “how badly are the trees damaged?” Ice storms and wind storms usually result in four major types of tree damage: the trees have branches broken off, tops broken out, the whole tree is uprooted, or the tree is bent over. Each type of damage will vary in seriousness from tree to tree and from forest stand to forest stand.

Trees with broken branches that have exposed heartwood will be infected by decay fungi at the point of injury. Major limbs that are over three inches in diameter will have some heartwood. Depending on the amount of damage, these trees should be removed at the next scheduled harvest.

Trees that have their tops broken out require more careful inspection. Once the terminal (extreme top point) is broken off,

the tree will stop height growth, unless one of the top branches becomes a new terminal. If only the actual leader is damaged, the next set of young branches sometimes bend upward to become leaders, creating a forked tree. If a large portion of the top is broken, the tree will stop height growth totally. These trees should be removed as soon as possible.

Uprooted trees should be considered dead. If not salvaged promptly, uprooted trees will quickly degrade in quality. The longer any salvage is delayed, the lower quality and dryer the wood will be. Most wood is bought by pulpmills and some sawmills by the ton. Thus trees that are allowed to dry out will be lighter and will bring a lower stumpage value. Some trees will not be uprooted totally, but will lean at a severe angle and the roots will partially stick out of the ground. These trees, called “root sprung,” will not die immediately, but will decline in vigor and

die over the next few years. Pine trees that are "root sprung" are prime targets for southern pine beetle and black turpentine beetles. These trees should also be cut as soon as possible.

Bent hardwood trees will usually survive without much stress. Young pines will also eventually straighten. Young seedlings bent over double by ice have later recovered. Pine trees that are bent sharply so that the wood cracks and resin flows become prime targets for beetles. Severe bending can alter the internal structure of the tree by splintering and separation of wood fibers, a condition referred to as "internal ring shake." Internal ring shake can make the wood unfit for veneer, poles, or lumber, depending on severity. Severely bent pines should be harvested as soon as possible. Bent hardwoods can wait to be salvaged at the next scheduled harvest.

The key question a landowner should answer is how extensive the damage is. For this work, it is best to have the help of a professional forester. He will inventory your stand and estimate the value of damaged timber. Generally, the best stumpage prices are for sale of at least 1 MBF (thousand board feet) Scribner or five cords per acre. If only a few trees are seriously damaged, they can be simply left or cut and used on the property as posts or firewood.

What Will Happen Next?

The key point to remember as you survey your woods is "DON'T PANIC!" Things may not be as bad as they seem. Studies have shown that the great majority of the trees with moderate damage will recover and continue to grow.

The best thing to do is let the forest try to recover from its shock. Many of the trees will recover and the stumpage prices will also have a chance to recover.

If the damaged trees are not cut, some decline in value can occur. Hardwood trees are fairly resilient and will have no real problem over the next few years. Pines with tops totally broken out, or lying flat on the ground, should be salvaged as soon as possible as they will quickly decline in quality. Trees with at least six living branches will survive for awhile and can be salvaged up to a year later.

The biggest hazard to a damaged pine stand is a Southern Pine Beetle epidemic. These insects often attack damaged or weakened trees and could spread to nearby undamaged trees as well. The best treatment for this pest is to cut the infected trees and cut a small buffer strip around it. (See "Control the Southern Pine Beetle" in *Alabama's Treasured Forest*, Fall 1983.)

Cleaning Up Your Woods

Once the ice has melted, clean-up can begin. The first step is to estimate the extent of the damage. Are five percent of the trees damaged? Twenty percent? Fifty percent? All of them? How seriously are they damaged? The trees can be put into three categories: undamaged, damaged and destroyed. The destroyed trees (less than six living branches), ones that will not live another year, should be salvaged as soon as possible. Trees with more than six living branches can be left and sold later in a thinning operation.

The best person to help you with this work is a professional forester. These foresters are employed as consulting foresters, county foresters for the AFC, and as landowner assistance foresters for local forest industries.

The hardest thing to do at a time like this is to resist the temptation to clear-cut the land. If you need to salvage, cut only the damaged trees and leave the rest. Generally, stumpage prices will be low after a natural disaster. Prices usually pick up about three months later. So the longer you can hold back your undamaged trees, the better price you can get.

Conducting a Timber Salvage Sale

If you have a significant number of destroyed or badly damaged trees, you will need to conduct a timber salvage sale. A salvage sale will generate money for cleaning up your woods and will eliminate potential problems later. If you sell, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Try to get at least two bids on the timber
- Always sell with a contract



- Only sell to buyers from the local area
- Always plan for regenerating your stand
- Most importantly, use the help of a professional forester

One serious problem that occurred in South Alabama after Hurricane Frederic was a large amount of timber theft. Out-of-state con-artists would pose as timber buyers, agree to buy timber, cut the trees and disappear before paying for them. *Don't let this happen to you!* Only sell your timber to people or firms from your local area. Ask for references and a performance bond. If you are unsure of a timber buyer, check with your county ranger or contact the Alabama Forestry Association in Montgomery at 205-265-8733.

Timber Casualty Losses and Taxes

One important aspect of recovering from a serious forest disaster is how to handle the damage on your income tax. The Internal Revenue Service has declared that if the loss is sudden or unexpected, it can be treated as a casualty loss for taxes. Under this definition, ice damage and windstorm damage would qualify, but a loss from Southern Pine Beetle does not.

The general rule is that all uncompensated losses are deductible from ordinary income in the year that it occurs. Timber casualty deductions may be taken for trees damaged as well as for those totally destroyed. The deduction is limited to the basis of adjusted cost of the timber less any salvage income received.

A recent court case declared that the most that a landowner can deduct is the basis of all the timber on that particular tract. If the stand that was destroyed was a plantation on which you have taken the reforestation tax credit and amortization, the basis is the amount left in the amortization account.

If the income from a timber salvage sale exceeds the basis, the gain is taxable. However, a recent ruling, nicknamed the Hurricane Frederic rule, states that the gain from a salvage sale is not taxable if it is reinvested in a "qualified replacement property." A qualified replacement property includes reforestation costs on that tract, or on any other tract, standing timber, or other forestland. The money must be reinvested within two years after the loss.

References:

- How to Evaluate and Manage Storm Damaged Forest Areas*, USDA Forest Service Forestry Report SA-FR20, September 1982
- A Guide to Federal Income Tax for Timber Owners*, USDA Forest Service Agriculture Handbook Number 596, September 1982

—Starting from Scratch— Direct Seeding

By ROBERT DISMUKES, District Forester, Brewton

RECENTLY, MANY LANDOWNERS WHO have wanted to plant pine trees have run into a problem—not enough pine seedlings in the state to meet everyone’s needs. One way to get around this problem is to go back to an older system, that of artificially seeding or direct seeding the site. Direct seeding means sowing treated pine seeds on a prepared site to establish a new stand of timber. There are many ways that this can be done, and these methods can apply to a variety of species.



Direct seeding should be done using only tested, repellent treated seed. One major problem with putting out seed is that it is a prime food source for birds and rodents. Thus the seeds need to be coated with a repellent to make them unappetizing. They also need to be treated with a fungicide to keep them from rotting before they can grow.

Different species require different sowing times. Many hardwoods and longleaf pine do best when sown in the fall. Loblolly and slash pine do best when put out in early spring. However, areas known to have severe frost-heaving should be avoided, or seeded when the threat of frost has passed.

Besides time of sowing, each species has other characteristics that must be considered. Longleaf pines are best suited to well-drained sandy loams. Longleaf is very intolerant and cannot stand any competition with other trees or brush. Thus, most of the hardwoods on the site should be removed. Longleaf also must be protected from grazing damage, especially during its first stage of growth, the “grass” stage. Longleaf seedlings often get a disease

called brown spot needle blight. The best preventative for this disease is frequent prescribed burning. Longleaf’s early tolerance of fire is an advantage in areas where the incidence of wildfire makes other species a risky choice.

Loblolly pine seedlings, on the other hand, require complete protection from fire until they are about ten years old or fifteen feet tall. Over most of Alabama, loblolly is adapted to most sites capable of growing pine trees. It grows best on soils with moderate drainage, a deep topsoil and a firm, clay-based subsoil. However, they do not do well on dry ridgetops or poorly drained soils. Loblolly is relatively intolerant of competition with dense grasses or low brush. In fact, seeding loblolly is seldom advisable unless some form of site preparation is done to reduce competition.

Site preparation for direct seeding has two objectives which can be reached at the same time: to expose the mineral soil that the pine seeds need for germination and to control competing vegetation that will interfere with the survival and early growth of the new stand. Prescribed burning is the simplest and least expensive method of site preparation. On open sites, burning would be enough by itself. On sites with hardwood trees or brush, burning is combined with mechanical or chemical site preparation techniques, such as chopping, shearing, tree injection or herbicide

spot-gun. After any burn the seed bed should receive some rain before the seeding is done.

How Much Seed To Put Out

In direct seeding, use only good, well-cared-for seed from an experienced commercial seed company and follow their instructions. A seed germination test should be done on any seed to be applied. The amount of seed to use should be determined by a forester after considering the condition of the site. The seeding rate should be such as to provide 10,000 to 15,000 viable seed per acre.

Usually seeding rates are expressed in pounds of seed per acre. Longleaf has about 4,500 seeds per pound, so it needs to be sown at about three pounds per acre. Loblolly seeds are lighter, with about 18,000 to 20,000 seeds per pound, so it can be sown at between one-half to one pound per acre, depending on the germination test rate.

How To Sow Seeds

There are now three ways to put out tree seeds: aerial seeding, hand seeding or spot seeding. Aerial seeding is done using a crop-dusting plane or helicopter to broadcast the seed over the area. When aerial seeding, do not use spinner-type spreaders as these can damage the seed. Aerial seeding is



widely used on large tracts or ones with difficult access.

Hand seeding is usually done using a cyclone-style seed spreader that you can get from a local garden supply store. You simply walk back and forth across the site spreading the seed. This works best on smaller, cleared areas with easy walking.

There is a new piece of equipment on the market that may be a third method of easy direct-seeding. The BRACKE SCARIFIER is a machine that is pulled across a site and site prepares and spot seeds at the same time.

Scarification is the loosening of the top soil of open areas on the forest floor to prepare the site for regeneration by direct seeding or natural seed-fall.

The BRACKE SCARIFIER does this by rotating pairs of mattock-type diggers that dig down and flip over the litter and topsoil into little mounds. These mounds trap the nutrient rich topsoil and cover them with mineral soil. In direct seeding operations, a few are dropped on each mound and the hump is slightly compacted. The trapped organic matter quickly decomposes and forms a rich compost of nutrients for the developing seedlings.

The BRACKE SCARIFIER provides minimal site disturbance in that only ten percent of the area is actually dug, creating excellent conditions for the seedling, without any erosion problems.



Conclusion

Direct seeding is an option that Alabama landowners should consider when pine seedlings are not available. If done right, it can result in an economical stand of fast growing seedlings. Give it a try on your TREASURE Forest.

References—

Guidelines for Direct Seeding—

Resource Management Service,
Birmingham, Alabama.

For more information about the BRACKE SCARIFIER, contact:

Brian Van Nest
KBM Forestry
Box 5462
Rome, Georgia 30162 ☎

Ticket to Ride

By BRIAN BRADLEY, RCD Forester, Ozark

FARMERS USE THEM. Cattlemen use them. Even game wardens use them. Well, why can't forest landowners use them too? "Them" are three-wheel all-terrain vehicles. All of the above mentioned groups have found that "three-wheelers" are a reliable and economical means of getting from point A to point B regardless of the topography and ground vegetation. If everybody else is convinced of their worth, what about the forest landowner. Should he/she save time, energy and have some fun at the same time by using a "3-wheeler"? The answer is a resounding YES!

Let's take the example of the Forestry Commission personnel in Houston County. Forest landowners in this southeastern-most county of the state jumped at the opportunity to use the AFC services for prescribed burning. As welcome as this tremendous response was, it also created a problem—not enough time to handle all the burning requests. So, as is typical of progressive employees when faced with a hurdle, they chose an innovative approach and decided a three-wheeler equipped with a home-made torch and delivery system would help out. This unit allowed the county people to burn three times more than if they had not had the vehicle. In fact they were able to burn for twice as many individual landowners (23) compared to the district's average per county. Newly assigned District Forester Franklin McAilley summed it by saying "I'd rather have the 3-wheeler than an extra man for burning season."

The Houston County unit is a Honda ATC200 equipped with a seven gallon fuel tank and movable firing wand which drops fire as the electric fuel pump delivers backfiring fuel from the tank to the wick. With the large fuel tank, repetitious trips back to a fuel source, as is common with hand held backfiring torches, is eliminated. Also, an added feature of the fuel tank is that it can fill hand drip torches if they are being used in conjunction with the three-wheeler. Experience has shown that a reverse gear is very necessary along with an engine and headlight shield, cargo rack and sealed engine which allows travel through water up to 18 inches deep.



While the initial cost of the three-wheeler was \$1,550 and fuel assembly an extra \$100, the maintenance amounts are very low. Since last burning season, a small trailer, pulled by a pickup or car, has been added for one-man transportation.

All of this information about the benefits for prescribed burning overshadows the fact that the three-wheeler is useful for a variety of activities by forest landowners. Some of which include the following:

- General inspection of woodlands
- Boundary line maintenance and inspection
- Scouting for insect infestations
- Remote food plot development (with disk attachment)
- Improved access for camping, picnicking and outdoor photography
- Easy access to timber sale activities
- Quick firefighting response unit

The opportunities for use in multiple-use management of forestland are virtually unlimited. While opportunities are great it is important to consider some safety factors such as these:

- Practice driving (since turning is very tricky)
- Wear a helmet and safety goggles
- Wear gloves and longsleeved shirt to minimize scratches
- A pair of chaps or leggings is ideal in thick brush

A three-wheeler may not be a "ticket to ride" for everyone, but forest landowners will certainly save time and energy with this effective method of travel over and through the woods of Alabama. ☎

Gray Squirrel

by ROBERT WATERS, Wildlife Biologist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

BOTH THE GRAY SQUIRREL and the fox squirrel are present throughout Alabama. The gray squirrel is by far the most abundant. Both species frequently occupy the same tract of forest land. In such cases, the fox squirrel is usually found in upland and the gray in bottomland hardwoods.

Until a few years ago, squirrel hunting was the most popular hunting sport in Alabama. It is now second in popularity—deer hunting is number one. In 1983-84, the state had about 113,208 squirrel hunters. They harvested about 1,420,510 squirrels, most of which were grays. So, the gray squirrel is indeed an important game animal in the state.

Information in this article is primarily about the gray squirrel, but some of the statements also apply to the fox squirrel. Basically the two species are much alike. They are closely related and their habits and life-needs are similar. Except for size and color, the main difference between the two squirrels is habitat preference. The gray squirrel prefers large tracts of dense, mature hardwoods, especially oaks and hickories with an understory of smaller trees and shrubs. These hardwoods may be on either upland or bottomland, preferably bottom-

land. The fox squirrel, on the other hand, prefers groves and open, cutover stands of mixed pines and hardwoods, especially upland.

Life History

As a rule, the gray squirrel pairs off for only a day or two at a time—until the female's fertile period is over. The male generally rests before seeking another female.

There are two well defined breeding periods in Alabama. The first is December to March, with a peak in February. The second is June to August, with a peak in July. Gestation period is about six weeks. Therefore, the two peaks of birth are March and August. Adult females may bear two litters each year. Litter size varies from one to six, with the average between two and three. Actually, litter size and number of litters per year depend on food supply. Litter size is smaller during years of food scarcity; and during those years, adult females may produce only one litter per year. Maternal care covers a period of about twelve weeks after which the young are able to take care of themselves. Some semblance of a family may exist for several weeks thereafter.

Maximum life span of a wild gray squirrel is eight to nine years, but few reach that age. In captivity, an individual may live up to twelve years or more. About sixty percent (six out of every ten) of a wild fall population were born earlier in the same calendar year.

Habitat Needs

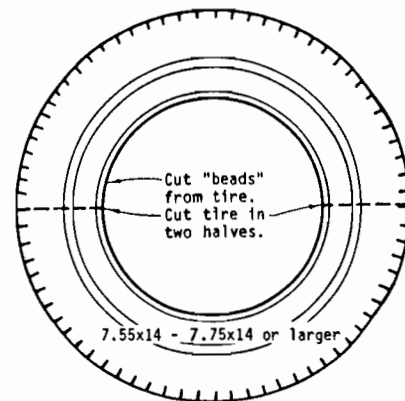
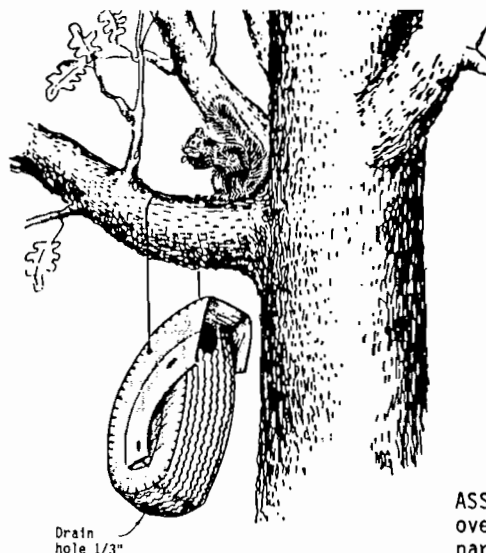
The gray squirrel depends primarily upon a variety of native foods, especially hardwood trees and shrubs. Choice native foods for fall and winter are bald cypress, beechnuts, blackgum, chinkapin, flowering dogwood, hickory nuts, magnolia, oaks, pecan, pines, and walnut. Choice native foods for spring and summer are blackberry, cottonwood, black cherry, elm, grape, huckleberry, apple, mulberry, mushrooms, pines, red maple, and yellow poplar. Squirrels also eat a wide variety of less important foods such as herbs and insects. Choice foods for feeding stations are cantaloupe seed, corn, hickory nuts, pecans, grain sorghum, sunflower seed, cracked walnut, and wheat.

For cover, the gray squirrel prefers big tracts of mature hardwoods with understories of smaller trees and shrubs. These

Squirrel Nest from Old Tire

Erect one or two nests per acre. Place them 15 to 20 feet above ground. Opening of nest should face trunk of tree. Place wire ball around limb. Check at least once a year for maintenance and remove bees and other unwanted guests.

Hanger wire should be placed to allow top portion of part 3 to overhang sufficiently to keep out rain.



ASSEMBLY: Fold part 1 over part 2, fold part 3 over parts 1 and 2. Part 3 is folded over part 1 about 2" to form a canopy.

mature hardwoods should be dense enough that squirrels can travel easily through their crowns.

The gray squirrel has two distinct homes: long-term tree dens and temporary leaf nests. Tree dens are preferred because they afford more protection from weather, natural enemies, and hunters. Dens with openings three to five inches in diameter and twenty feet or more above ground are best. Favored dens are six to seven inches wide and one to three feet deep.

Gray squirrel can live without drinking water for several weeks with no apparent ill effects. However, free water is an attractive feature of squirrel habitat. In fact, squirrels may leave an area if free water is not available.

Habitat Management

Habitat management consists mostly of retaining, creating, and maintaining habitat or a suitable place for squirrels to live and rear their young. Well managed habitat should be protected from erosion.

Retain hardwoods, primarily oaks and hickories. If possible, retain these hardwoods on sites that will produce marketable trees. For the most part, the sites will be along creeks and other streams. Trees should be dense enough that squirrels can easily travel through their crowns. Retain several different species of oaks and hickories. Oaks should be from both the white oak and the red or black oak groups. Then, if one species fails to produce mast (fruit of nut-bearing trees), others will likely succeed. Retain understory species such as dogwood and huckleberry. Retain three or more suitable den trees per acre. If possible select den trees that also provide food.

Plant one-fourth of an acre or more in corn or chufa. Larger plantings (2 acres or more)

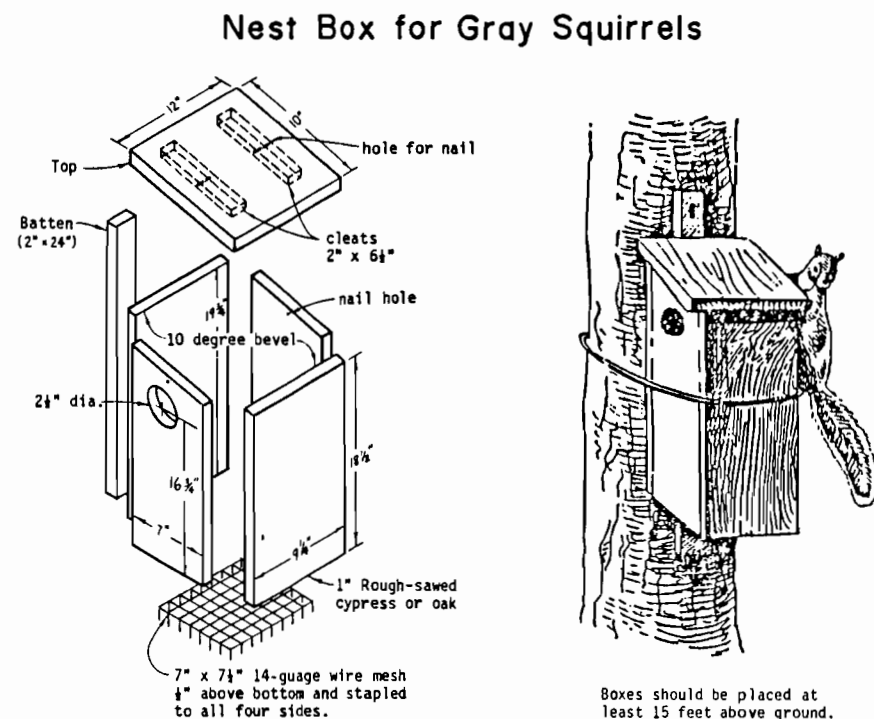


FIGURE 1

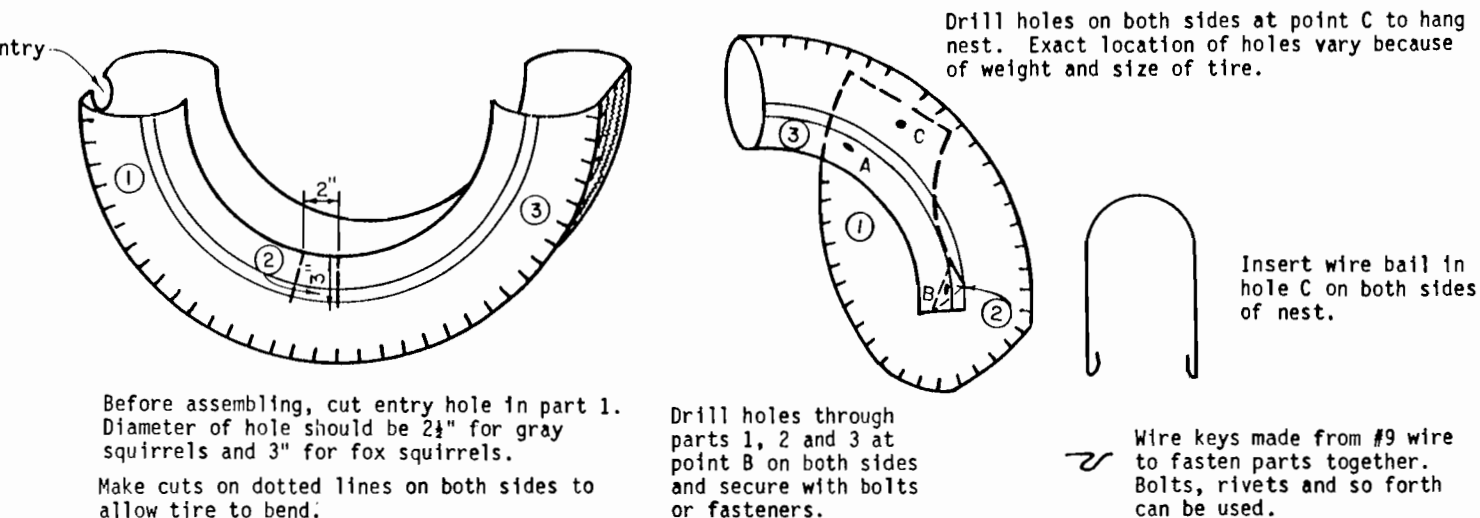
Boxes should be placed at least 15 feet above ground.

are recommended on areas with high populations of either deer, raccoon, or wild turkey. These plantings should adjoin mature hardwoods, especially oaks and hickories. One plot (one-fourth of an acre or more) for every 10 acres of hardwoods is usually sufficient for squirrels.

Five to ten percent hardwood trees planted with pines will eventually (25 years or more) produce enough food to maintain squirrels. These hardwoods are especially valuable where large tracts are clearcut and planted in pines. Species to plant are hickories, mulberries, oaks from both the white and red oak groups, pecan, and walnut. These hardwoods should be planted in groups

rather than scattered throughout the pines. A few rows of corn left either unharvested or shucked and adjoined by hardwoods attract squirrels from long distances. Chufas and peanuts are good for this purpose, also. Maintain feeding stations around homes.

Erect nest boxes if den trees are scarce. A typical nest box is shown in FIGURE 1. When building nest boxes, make provisions for removing either the top or bottom for periodic cleaning. Place nest boxes 15 to 30 feet above ground, preferably in trees at least 10 inches in diameter. Entrance holes in nest boxes should be near the trunk for easy entrance. Worn automobile tires (FIGURE 2) make satisfactory nest structures, also, but



Before assembling, cut entry hole in part 1. Diameter of hole should be 2 1/2" for gray squirrels and 3" for fox squirrels.

Make cuts on dotted lines on both sides to allow tire to bend.

Drill holes through parts 1, 2 and 3 at point B on both sides and secure with bolts or fasteners.

Drill holes on both sides at point C to hang nest. Exact location of holes vary because of weight and size of tire.

Insert wire bail in hole C on both sides of nest.

Wire keys made from #9 wire to fasten parts together. Bolts, rivets and so forth can be used.



they may detract somewhat from the appearance of an area. One or two nest boxes per acre may be needed. Create well distributed water holes (about one-fourth of a mile apart) if free water is scarce or absent. Water holes can be created by improving springs, damming small streams, or digging small ponds.

Protect the habitat from fire at all times. Protect from grazing by hogs and other livestock. Manage woodland to favor the choice foods listed earlier in the paragraph entitled "Food." Woodland treatment may include release cutting, thinning, and many other practices, except prescribed burning which is detrimental to gray squirrel habitat. Inspect nest boxes at least once a year, preferably in December or early January. Make needed repairs and remove bees and other unwanted occupants from boxes.

Carrying Capacity

Gray squirrel populations fluctuate a good bit from year to year, depending primarily upon food supply. The fall mast (nuts or fruit) crop of one year, especially on oaks and hickories, determines to a great extent the squirrel population of the following year. During years of gray squirrel abundance, ideal habitat may support one squirrel per acre during winter, the least favorable season. Fall populations may be somewhat higher.

Harvesting

Except in small, isolated woodlots (5 to 75 acres), it is difficult, if not impossible, to overharvest gray squirrels by sport hunting during Alabama's legal hunting season.

Research has shown that at least six out of every ten squirrels in a fall population die before the next fall regardless of whether they are hunted. Wildlife biologists call these deaths "annual mortality" or the yearly rate at which wild animals normally die. Yearly mortality rates are rather high for game animals, especially the smaller ones. For the gray squirrel, annual mortality is 60 percent. Annual mortality is nothing more than Nature's way of harvesting surplus animals from the yearly crop of wildlife.

It's almost impossible to harvest more animals of a particular species by sport hunting each year than Nature is going to harvest through annual mortality. This is especially true of small game such as the gray squirrel. Besides, if hunters take a small percentage of the game population every year by sport hunting, annual mortality takes an additional toll until total mortality for the year equals—but doesn't exceed—the number that Nature would have taken from the various species without any hunting whatsoever. Here's how it works:

If hunters take 50 percent of the squirrels in a fall population, mortality for the year from all other causes will be 10 percent. But

if hunters take only 20 percent, mortality from other causes will be 40 percent. And if hunters don't fire a single shot at squirrels, mortality from other causes will be a whopping 60 percent! So, mortality from all causes—sport hunting and all others—will be 60 percent for the year. In other words, if one thing doesn't get 60 percent of the squirrels in a fall population, something else will. Wise use of the squirrel crop dictates that hunters harvest a large portion of the annual surplus, thereby ensuring that the resource will be used for wholesome recreation and in most instances for human food, also. When Nature is allowed to harvest the annual surplus, only bugs, opossums, and buzzards benefit from the squirrel crop. Obviously, that's not good use of the resource.

More Information

More information on the gray squirrel is available from the Soil Conservation Service, your County Agent Coordinator, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. Technical assistance in managing habitat for the gray squirrel and for other valuable wildlife is available from the same sources.

®

The Professional Forester

By WILBUR B. DE VALL, R.F., Professor Emeritus of Forestry Auburn University

SO YOU WANT TO KNOW what a forester is and does and whether he could be of assistance to you in the planning and management of your timber lands? You may want to read on to learn who the forester is, what he can do for you, where you can find him, why he can render valuable assistance to you, why you should seek his professional help, and how to determine what his cost to you would be. All of these questions are concerned with professionalism in forestry and are answered in the paragraphs that follow.

This article is based on *professionalism* as it relates to the forester. Webster's dictionary defined *professional* as being in contrast to *amateur* and applicable to one who makes a livelihood of something others do for pleasure. Combined with this meaning is the fact that the professional makes what he is doing a *business* and not an *avocation*.

WHO is a forester? The definition of forester has been argued since forestry came into being about the beginning of the 1900's. However, the State of Alabama has written into law its definition of a forester. Quoting from the 1975 Alabama Code, Chapter 12—Foresters, Article 1, a forester is "A person who, by reason of his knowledge of the natural sciences, mathematics, economics and the principles of forestry and by his demonstrated skills acquired through professional forestry education and professional forestry experience . . . is qualified to engage in the practice of forestry (also defined in the law) and who also has been duly registered and holds a current valid license issued by the Board (State Board of Registration for Foresters)." In Alabama this means that the forester has earned a degree in forestry from a four-year school, has acquired a minimum of two years of forestry experience following his graduation, has passed an examination, and has



five persons attesting to his qualifications, three of whom must be foresters and not members of the State Board.

WHAT can a forester do for you? He can provide you with the information needed from establishment to harvest of a forest. This means that he can answer questions and make recommendations on selecting the proper seed or planting stock for your area, to and including, all of the operations required in arriving at a proper time for harvest as well as the criteria to be considered in the harvest of your forest. Included in this series of operations on which decisions must be made are such considerations as how to prepare a site for seeding or planting, number of seedlings per acre, fertilization, protecting the established forest from fire, insects, and disease, thinning the established crop if needed, pruning, selling forest products, and all other operations incidental to the establishment, development, and final use of a man-made or natural forest such as financing and taxation.

WHEN do you need to seek out the professional forester? This step should be taken *before* you are ready to make a decision about your forest. Keep in mind that a major decision made today will be reflected in the result obtained some 30 to 60 years in the future. The professional forester can be of help to you even though you may yourself be familiar with soils, plants, machines, and marketing of products. A general opinion from a forester will not cost you anything at this point. Later, when major decisions have to be made based on technical data obtained from the land, trees, and markets, you may be wise to seek real input from one of the types of foresters described in a later paragraph. Should you be planning to establish a new forest or reforest a site previously forested, seek a professional forester. Should you be planning some type of thinning or other cut prior to a final harvest, contact a professional forester. Should you have maturing timber and want to make a sale, choose a professional forester. In all cases, *you will be glad you did!*

WHERE do you find this professional forester previously described? He will be near you but may not be personally known to you. This means that you should know where to look, call or visit. Some foresters are employed by Federal agencies and work primarily on federally-owned lands such as the National Forests and National Parks. Others may work for State agencies and can be located through state, district and/or county offices of forestry-related organizations such as the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Soil Conservation Service,

Auburn University's School of Forestry and/or Extension Service, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to name the ones employing more than one forester. Most of the major industries also employ foresters. Included in this group are the pulp and paper companies, logging contractors, pulpwood dealers, sawmills, plywood plants, veneer mills, and other wood-related businesses including those which process wood products such as treating plants. A few major Alabama banks employ foresters in their trust departments. Your nearest contact, should you desire to locate a professional forester, would likely be your County Extension Chairman (County Agent) who has a list of persons you might contact in your area including, in most cases, their addresses and phone numbers. The Alabama Forestry Association, while employing only one or two foresters, works with all the previously-mentioned groups as does the Alabama Farm Bureau. You should feel free to talk with any forester about a need in another geographic area of the state because he probably belongs to his professional Society of American Foresters and maintains contact with many colleagues.

WHY should you as a forest landowner seek the opinions and expertise of a professional forester? The answer may be obvious. You would be seeking him for a service just as you would seek counsel through an attorney. In either case the professional forester, attorney, or doctor of medicine, and others can assist you in reaching a decision based on technical expertise. You may not be familiar with the terminology used in the forestry profession and may not know the nature of units of measure when applied to wood products. Your professional forester can explain all of these and help you relate to the real meaning of these terms and units. This knowledge on your part, or with assistance of your forester, is essential when products are sold. At this point in forest management, the land owner must know the meaning of board feet, cords, units, and other units of measure. While you as a landowner may know how to estimate yields of cotton, soy beans, and various row crops, you may need help understanding the units of measure used in the forest and applied to harvested products. The forest landowner should consider himself on a par with those who deal with banks. Just recently an article appeared in a regional forestry magazine under the title "What does a bank need with a forester, anyway?" It was authored by a bank employee in the Trust Department. The article appeared in the November-Decem-

ber 1984 issue of the *FOREST FARMER*. Many of the same considerations previously mentioned are highlighted in the banker's article. Furthermore, the forest landowner can answer the question, **WHY** do I need a forester and feel secure by keeping in mind that the forester is educated, experienced, and knowledgeable of many facets of the forest, processors, and markets. When registered under Alabama law, you can be assured that he also has the qualifications to serve as an expert witness in a court of law.

You as a forest landowner or future landowner, or just an interested individual should make your request for professional services in a manner similar to that you would use in requesting legal assistance. This means you would seek an attorney to represent you and your interests for which you would be charged a fee for services rendered. Professional service by a forester (consultant) means that he would represent you, and you only, with no conflict of interest. Foresters working for an industry, organization, or agency do not charge for their advice and should be unbiased in performance of their service. However, these persons cannot represent you in the same sense a consultant would. Each is paid by his employer to discharge his duties which may impose limitations on what he can do or bias his advice since his primary allegiance is to his employer and not you as a client-landowner.

The professional forester is bound by a Code of Ethics. Should it be violated, there is recourse through the profession and the courts. You should consider seeking the assistance of a professional forester in the same manner you would in selecting an attorney or doctor. You certainly trust the lawyer or doctor only when you know that he "went to school" and has acquired the skills you need "through experience." Choose your professional forester in the same manner. It always pays to talk with a "satisfied customer." Talking with friends who have employed professional foresters will prove rewarding. Also, while the field of medicine sometimes recommends getting a "second opinion," you should feel that this choice is also yours when it comes to services of a professional forester. Remember, he is first a citizen. Second, he is part of a community of citizens as well as professional foresters. Finally, he projects his future based on his reputation established while working with people. You are certainly one of the "people" who is also a citizen and part of a community. Therefore, you and the professional forester are part of the same society designed to further the welfare of self, family, and country. Try them—you will like them! ♣



EDITOR'S UNDERSTORY

By CYNTHIA K. PAGE

Many believe that life is what one makes it. Others believe that life's success is pure chance. George Wright, Judge Wright as most know him, is an example that it takes both elements—hard work and chance—to realize the many rewards of a productive life.

Certainly he would have been successful at his chosen law field, but luck presented

another opportunity for a different success, one that provided both pleasure and income!

Who would have guessed that 87 years after a great uncle purchased Millwood and the surrounding acreage that four cards would decide the ownership? So it was in 1962, as nieces and nephews gathered to anxiously draw cards for the property which

had been divided into four parcels. An ace, deuce, three, and four of spades, each corresponding to a plot, were carefully drawn. George Wright and his sister Camille Cook turned the card to see a four of spades—Millwood was theirs!

Situated on the winding Black Warrior River in Hale County, Millwood had once been a thriving inn for river travelers. An English medical doctor, Dr. Withers, originally settled at Millwood and was one of the few physicians in the Greensboro community. His settlement provided warmth and food for many who made their journey along the busy waterway.

The old two-story inn is somewhat stately and the stone fireplace surely must have burned many a hickory log from nearby woods. The old plaster walls, though cracked and peeled with age, still have scribbled messages bearing witness to snow, ice, and sub-zero temperatures in this southern village by the river in the early 1800's. Hunting escapades, too, are recorded and dated. One tells of a big snorting buck that escaped death after giving the hunter a second chance. Even a young G. S. Wright is recorded as having killed his first deer in the mid 1930's.

Life must have been difficult in those early years, but to see the grace and charm of Millwood, it is difficult to imagine that there were ever hardships there. Artisan wells, rich soil, and prolific wildlife probably made the first settlers quite self sufficient. Walking the cypress steps to the upper chambers, one can almost hear the laughter ringing through the cracks in the walls, while the wind on the "widow's walk" brings back the sighs of a young maiden awaiting the return of her river captain.

Millwood is an enchanting and romantic place still enjoyed by the Wright and Cook families. George and his wife Stella not only spent time here with their three daughters—Stella, Camille, and Maxine. Sister Camille Cook's children—Sidney, Reuben, Cade, and Camille—also spent a great deal of time at Millwood. A close look at the plastered wall reveals many of these family names.

Judge Wright expressed his love for Millwood in several ways, but I suppose one stood out most because I had heard a similar expression from other landowners. "I can come here and get away from everything," he said. "The quiet and solitude is therapy. We're just caretakers. I don't own *it*, *it* owns *me* and will be here long after I'm gone."

I wonder who will draw the four of spades then. ♣



LANDO

LEGISLATIVE
ALERT

NATIONAL



by J. KENNETH MYERS, U.S.D.A. Forest Service

THE 99TH CONGRESS CONVENED on January 3 and immediately confronted a full agenda of legislative issues. The members' work began in earnest in late January after they had completed their organizational process and established the committees. Nearly 2000 bills had been introduced in the Senate and House through the end of February. The Fiscal Year 1986 and 1986 Farm Bill were the predominant issues before Congress in the early weeks of the session.

The Administration's budget for 1986 again calls for the termination of Federal financial grants to State forestry agencies for the cooperative forestry assistance programs. This action would eliminate Federal funding for the fire protection, insect and disease control, forestry assistance and wood utilization programs. Information accompanying the budget indicates that this is being proposed because these assistance programs are viewed as being a State responsibility. The Forestry Incentives Program, funded through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, is also slated to receive no funding in 1986. Reduction in FIP funding has been proposed in the past, but Congress has restored the funds. In Fiscal Year 1985, Congress provided \$12.5 million for the program.

The Farm Bill, the legislation which governs the agriculture commodity programs for a four-year period, and the related debate on emergency assistance to farmers having severe credit problems, has brought forth a flood of legislation. The Administration sent Congress its proposed Farm Bill in early February. It is limited to the commodity programs of a conservation nature. In particular, it does not authorize the establishment of a conservation reserve to

retire highly erodible cropland and allow a permanent vegetation cover, including trees, to be established on such lands. It does include a provision that would prohibit any farmer who begins tilling erodible soils that have not been in production the last ten years from receiving any Federal farm program benefits—the so-called “sodbuster” provision. The Administration's Farm Bill proposal is designed to redirect agriculture to a market orientation, reducing its dependence on Federal subsidies.

Congress will be responding to the Administration's proposal and will likely propose additional programs during the spring months. This is expected to include a conservation reserve program that would authorize tree planting on retired erodible cropland. Other tree planting activities are being discussed but there has been no clear

indications that they will be included in legislation.

Another issue that will be of concern to Alabama forest landowners is tax reform. Both the Administration and Congress have indicated they will be considering tax legislation during the two-year 99th Congress. The Administration's proposal centers around tax simplification—removing many current tax deductions which would be offset by a reduction in tax rates. It is possible that such a proposal would include the tax benefits now enjoyed by forest landowners in the planting and harvesting of trees. Many organizations will be closely following the progress of these proposals. The Forest Service, too, will be watching the proposal and will report on any action in future issues of *TREASURED Forests*. Early action by Congress is not expected. ♣



WINNERS

STATE



by FRANK SEGO, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

FROM THE OPENING GAVEL of the 1985 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature it was obvious that this state's forest resource was going to get plenty of attention.

Revenue-Increasing Bills

Even before the session convened on February 5, three bills of vital importance to the forest landowner were prefiled in the House and Senate. Rep. Bob Harvey of Oneonta handled the legislation in the House. *The first such measure would double the forest severance tax and the privilege tax on the processor.* Doubling these existing taxes would amount to approximately \$1.8 million in additional revenue.

One stipulation in this bill was that the Wallace Administration and the legislature recognize Alabama's forestry needs by appropriating an equivalent amount from the General Fund. Fire control and nursery improvement were cited as the critical needs of the Alabama Forestry Commission and would be the beneficiary of this measure.

A second legislative proposal urged by the Alabama Forestry Association called for a constitutional amendment to promote and further provide forest fire protection through a statewide acreage assessment of 10¢ per acre on forest lands.

There are 36 counties which have achieved similar legislation through local acts. However, the forest industry conducted a review of this patchwork source of county funding and concluded that these local acts are merely supporting a portion of the Forestry Commission's budget.

The enactment of a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the people of Alabama would replace all existing funds now being received from previously enacted local legis-

lation, county appropriations and landowner agreements.

The third bill would provide the method of assessing the statewide assessment should the amendment be approved by Alabama voters. The statewide assessment, or finance charge, would generate an additional \$600,000 for fire protection and tree insect damage.

Identical bills were introduced in the Senate, but since they are revenue producing measures, they must originate in the House and be cleared by the House Ways and Means Committee before reaching the House floor for further action by the Senate.

The entire three-bill package would churn up a total of approximately \$4.2 million in additional revenues to improve the fire protection and tree seedling program for Alabama's forest resource.

Forest Industrial Development

More legislation was forthcoming as Senator Perry Hand of Gulf Shores introduced *a bill to establish a state forest industrial development board for the purpose of expanding Alabama's timber industry and promoting the use of wood energy.* Hand's measure was co-sponsored by 20 of his Senate colleagues, thus reflecting the interest in forestry development by other members of the legislature.

This legislation had been recommended by the Legislative Forestry Study Committee following several meetings with officials of the Alabama Development Office (ADO) and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). All agreed that such a board is needed to accomplish timber industrial and wood energy development.

Appropriation for the board would come

from the State General Fund in the amount of \$375,000 to be allocated so that the ADO and ADECA would receive \$150,000 each and the Alabama Forestry Commission \$75,000 to carry out the goals and intentions of the 11-member board.

Representative E. A. Grouby, Jr. of Prattville sponsored a similar bill in the House.

Timber Theft Law

The Forestry Commission has noted that timber theft is a major problem in Alabama. For this reason *a bill has been introduced to establish the Timber Theft Equipment Condemnation Act.* This law is necessary to prevent violation of existing timber theft laws and place more severe punishment on the violator. Violators of the present law are being convicted for theft of property but are released and, within hours, are back in the forest stealing timber again.

The new law would impose the power to seize, confiscate and condemn a violator's equipment. The Commission's law enforcement section sees this as a better prevention tool for containing timber theft.

Forest Product Records

Still another bill endorsed by the Forestry Commission and Forestry Association *amends the Code of Alabama which provides for maintaining records of purchases of manufactured forest products.* The amendment will make it easier for the buyer of forest products to keep proper records. Essentially, the bill eliminates recording the section, township and range from which the forest product was severed and inserts only

the county from which the product was severed. It also imposes a stiffer penalty for failure to keep such records.

EDITOR'S NOTE TO THE LAND-OWNER—In our last issue we reminded you of your part in the future of Alabama's forest resource by making your legislator aware of his duty to support this valuable asset. It is very evident that your voice is being heard

from the reaction we are getting to our legislative program. Passage in the last special session of a supplemental appropriation, which was necessary to complete funding for Commission employee's 1984-85 pay raise, is evidence of legislative attention to our needs. We are now involved in the most important legislative program in our history. Let's keep our lawmakers aware of this and all of Alabama will benefit from the results. ♠

ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT

2

Steve Bowden, Forest Ranger in Blount County taught a course on Wildland Fire Suppression to the Remlap Volunteer Fire Department on February 4-6. About 30 firemen attended.

Steve Bowden and **Sharon Clark**, Forest Rangers in Blount County taught the Hayden High School F.F.A. Club timber cruising methods on February 7. The club members are preparing for spring forestry judging contests. A slide program on multiple use management was also shown.

DISTRICT

3

The Alabama Forestry Commission's float-entered Tuscaloosa's annual West Alabama Christmas Parade in December and received the first place trophy in the civic and government division. This is the second consecutive year the Forestry Commission float has received this first place award. Congratulations to **Ken Elmore**, **William Moore**, **Ken Colburn**, **Ricky Dockery**, **Everette Brown** and **Charles Harryman**.

District Forester **Wayne Strawbridge** planned and coordinated a Prescribed Burning and Smoke Management meeting which was held on January 23, 1985 at District 3 Headquarters for forest industry, large landowners and forestry consultants. **Hugh Mobley** presented the program which was attended by 25 representatives of the three groups. District 3 county supervisors, fire specialist, and **Jim Cain** of the District 3 Operation Center also attended.

The Tuscaloosa Forestry Planning Committee held nightly meetings for forest landowners in November and January at the Tuscaloosa Public Library. Prescribed burning, annosus root rot and southern pine beetle were the subjects covered in the slide-tape presentations.

Sumter County Forester **Philip DuBois**, Utilization Specialist **Jim**

Gober, and RC&D Forester **Mark Beeler** assisted in a Sawmill Improvement Study at **American Can's** sawmill at Bellamy in Sumter County.

The **Greene County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored three (3) forest field days in November and December. The AFC sawmill was demonstrated along with District 3's tree planter. Other topics covered in the field days included prescribed burning, improvement thinnings, chemical and mechanical site preparation, kudzu control, pine release with herbicides. **Dr. Frank Roth**, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, also made a presentation on Forestry Investments. TREASURE Forest awards were presented to **Ruth Eatman** and **Dean Colson**. A total of 79 landowners attended the three field days.

District RCFD Coordinator **Ken Elmore** planned and coordinated a Mini-Steering Committee meeting of the RCFP Departments in District 3. State RCFP Coordinator **Ray Tucker** participated in this meeting held on January 15, 1985 at the State Fire College in Tuscaloosa.

Fayette County had two volunteer fire departments certified in October. They were the communities of **Glen Allen** and **Belk**. The **Fowler's Crossroad** community has formed a VFD and has one truck. Fayette County currently has six volunteer fire departments.

Jerry Fulmer, Forest Ranger in Fayette County spent one hour a day for one week with the **Future Farmers of America** class at **Fayette High School** talking on forestry and showing slide-tape programs.

The preliminary economic analyses for converting to wood fired systems were done on the **Fayette County Hospital** and the **Fayette Civic Center** by Utilization Specialist **Jim Gober** and County Supervisor **George Lowrey**. These studies resulted from a talk by Jim Gober to the Fayette County Rural Development Committee.

District SCS Conservationist **Lyndon McCavitt** and County Supervisor **George Lowrey** gave a presentation on reforestation and soil erosion to the 7th grade class at **Berry Junior High School**.

DISTRICT

4

A maddening outbreak of arson in **Talladega County** last winter, plus a hard-driving effort from Forestry Commission personnel brought results. The guilty party was arrested, tried, and convicted. The testimony that was provided by **Ms. Viney Swaine** and **Mr. Robert Curry** gave conclusive testimony that cinched the conviction. Ranger **Clyde Atkisson** has worked diligently over the years gathering evidence of such crimes only to be thwarted at the last minute by frightened witnesses who would not testify. **Ernie Moore**, District Forester, and **Atkisson** contacted other agency people and the combined effort brought together concerned citizens. This meeting and discussion helped the affected citizens to realize the urgency of offering information in court.

Recently, **Ms. Swaine** and **Mr. Curry** were presented a reward of \$250.00 each for their aid in this case.

District 4 has established a central shop in **Lineville** capable of third echelon maintenance on all except diesel engines. This will permit a more efficient operation both money-wise and time-wise. **W. N. (Norphlet) McCollum** is the shop supervisor.

Clayton Schwind has turned in 12 FIP and ACP management plans in the last two months. **Schwind**, **Ray** and **Giles** have been busy with meetings and have given instructional programs

We are now completing the third county AFC office. Our first is in **Randolph County (Wedowee)**; the second is in **Heflin, Cleburne County**; the third is in **Lineville, Clay County**. The primary heat in the Cleburne and Clay offices will be wood.

Just before the Christmas holiday, we had a District Christmas party. We have found that this is better during all the business of that season. We had planned to have a special award presented that day to our outstanding employee, **W. N. McCollum. Norphlet (McCollum) had smashed his hand and was in the hospital in Anniston, so we had another luncheon on the 21st and Mr. Moore** made the presentation.

in map reading for Union Hill Fire Dept. and Chambers County RCFP Association. They participated in the White Plains Fair. *Trees, Are They A Good Investment?* was presented to the **Union Hill Community Club** and the **Chambers County Forestry Planning Committee**.

Chambers had the singular distinction of the only robbery—**Fredonia Tower**—in which everything including a scanner AND two chairs were taken. Replacement has been estimated at \$11,500. *The Opelika-Auburn News, Valley Times*, and the *LaFayette Sun* all gave coverage.

Earl Smith, County Forester, turned in 5 ACP and FIP management plans during January. **Medforth, McCollum**, and **Smith** have had an active month with wildfires, prescribe burns, and meetings.

On January 17 a meeting of District 4's RCFP Associations was held in **Ashland** at the Courthouse. Plans were made for a District-wide RCFP Volunteer Fire Department competition to be held in May in Randolph County. The date has not been decided.

Glenn Berry County Forester, turned in two TREASURE Forest plans since Christmas. The **Cleburne County Forestry & Wildlife Association** bi-monthly meeting was held in **Heflin** and a film, *Ducks Unlimited*, was shown as the program. A TREASURE Forest presentation was made to **James & Janice Reed**. The Cleburne County Forestry Planning Committee held a Demonstration Tour at **Muscadine** showing prescribe burning, thinning, tree planting, site prep, and wildlife plantings. **Hollis Cross Roads RCFP** held a fund raising program. Work progresses on the new office building. A Forest Tax Seminar to assist landowners with their tax considerations was planned for January 17 at the Courthouse in **Heflin**, but was cancelled and was held January 31 with **Bill McKee** as the tax expert. A prescribe burn (TSI-site prep) has been planned during the next quarter (weather permitting).

Kate Prater hosted a group of 25 students at **Flagg Mountain** during January. She conducted a tour of the AFC stone tower and the log cabin office; she also talked to them about forest management, prescribe burning, and fire suppression. **Ralph Woolley**, AFC County Supervisor, has checked 10 plantings (FIP and ACP) during January. **Joel Neighbors, Buddy Adcox**, and **Woolley** have suppressed several wildfires since Christmas; one of the most recent about three a.m. on one of those frigid nights. **Urban Forester, Guy Slayden**, presented a program to the Town & Country Garden Club on tree choices and care for the home area. TREES FOR ALABAMA HOMES (Alabama Power Co., Alabama Coop. Ext. Ser., and Alabama Forestry Comm.) was given to each member.

Steve Nix, County Forester, was instrumental in the nomination of **Mr. John Stephenson** of **THE RAN-**

DOLPH LEADER for one of the W. Kelly Mosley Awards. Mr. Stephenson was chosen a winner and **C. W. Moody**, State Forester, presented the award at a meeting of the Roanoke Rotary Club. Members of the **Randolph County Forestry Planning Committee** were also present. **Nix** did a program for the Roanoke Garden Club on TREE CITY; he also did one for the Roanoke Rotary Club. The Tree Board of Roanoke held a Tree Heritage Day on January 12. **Vangie Nix**, Chairman, **Mrs. Johnnie Tate**, Publicity, sold over 3,000 trees from 1-5 years of age. They also delivered over 200 TREES FOR ALABAMA HOMES (Alabama Power Co., Alabama Coop. Ext. Ser., and Neil Letson of Alabama Forestry Commission). **Charles Sikes** has been active in programs for all the RCFP units in the county. **Nix** is a member of the West Point Lake Advisory Committee and recently attended a meeting where industrial Lake users discussed problems and issues concerning West Point Lake. Members of the press were present and the issues discussed resulted in better understanding between the public and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. **Nix** also contacted leading landowners and **Rep. Laird** concerning AFC appropriations providing written information concerning the problems. A meeting with **John Swann**, Wedowee Wholesale Florists, resulted in Mr. Swann's taking the introduction of a new hybrid American Chestnut into Randolph County as his personal project. Trees will be furnished at cost. **The Randolph Leader** has carried information concerning the Dunstan Hybrid Chestnut; a sizable list of landowners have shown an interest in this project. **Charles Sikes** took care of CAREER DAY in **Randolph Roanoke Area Vocational School**. Steve's TREE TIPS appears regularly in the newspaper.

Clyde Atkisson and **Doug Martin** have been busy with fire suppression and machinery upkeep. **John Tyson**, RC&D Forester, did a Forest Management and Wood Energy show on WHMA-TV from Anniston (30 minutes). John's annual Wood Energy Seminar was held at Cheaha with good attendance as usual.

Guy Slayden, **Tallapoosa County Forester**, has had several articles in THE DADEVILLE RECORD and THE ALEXANDER CITY OUTLOOK concerning the use of herbicides, site preparation, and the new volunteer fire department at Pace's Point (on Lake Martin). **Guy** assisted in judging a 4-H Speech Contest and has handled Career Day at Lyman Ward Military Academy for 40 11th and 12th graders.

Talladega Forest Ranger **Clyde Atkisson** has been teaching Forestry Awareness classes at **YMCA Camp Cosby**. The classes are made up of students from grades 3-6 from schools in surrounding counties. Each class consists of 60-80 students organized into 5 groups.

Clyde Atkisson has been busy, between fire duties, assisting the **Talladega County Association of Firefighters** to acquire and install an RCFP radio system. Eight Departments now have their radios, the repeater is operational and all radios will be operational by February 15.

The Talladega County Forestry Planning Committee held a prescribed burning and sawmill demonstration at **Alpine**. Everyone attending was well pleased with the results of both projects.

DISTRICT 5

On November 19, the **Chickasaw State Park Outdoor Learning Center** was dedicated in **Marengo County**. On hand for the dedication were **Senator Frances "Sister" Strong**, **Representative Harrell Blakeney**, **Marengo County RDC Chairperson Patsy Dixon**, and representatives from the **Department of Conservation, Soil Conservation Service, Alabama Forestry Commission** and forest industries.

On January 28, the **Chilton County Forestry Planning Committee** held a TREASURE Forest tour on the TREASURE Forest property of **Gaston Wilson**. Landowners and guests were able to see forestry practices such as prescribed burning, tree planting, and timber harvesting.

During Fire Prevention Week, fifty **Chilton County Y.M.C.A.** youngsters enjoyed a fire prevention program in **Clanton**. In **Wilcox County**, the **Pine Hill Middle School** classes were also presented a fire prevention program.

On November 26, **Smokey Bear** was given a birthday party by the K-4 classes of **Autauga Academy**.

Mr. C. O. Stephens, a Christmas tree farmer in **Autauga County**, donated Christmas trees for the State Capitol and the Governor's mansion. Mr. Stephens was assisted in his selections by the **Autauga County Extension Office** and **AFC**.

On December 14, the **Wilcox County S.C.S.** and **AFC** held their annual Plant a Tree Day. The two agencies gave away several thousand hardwoods, pines, and bicolor plants.

DISTRICT 6

Channel 4's WTVY Television Station in **Houston County** greatly helped inform and educate **Wiregrass** viewers during the past three months by broadcasting a Saturday noon special on whole tree chipping and the use of wood for energy in **Dothan**; a 6 o'clock news report of a TREASURE Forest dedication for **Marilyn** and **Gene Ragan's** property; a live noon program dealing with the importance of marginal cropland conversion to timber; and also a commentary on the **Timber Outlook** for 1985. **AFC** participants were **Tracy Lawrence** and **Lowell Williams** of **Houston County** and **Brian Bradley**, **RC&D Forester**.

Carl Jones, **Henry County's** newest

TREASURE Forest landowner received his framed certificate and sign in a ceremony organized by **AFC's Kenneth Blalock** and **Tommy Haynes**. **Probate Judge R. H. McSweeney** made the presentation with representatives of the **County Forestry Planning Committee** also on hand.

County Supervisor Bruce Hancock and **Ranger Larry Doster** assisted the **Dale County Soil Conservation Service** in the annual Tree Day giveaway.

Barry Lawrence, **RFA Forester**, presented an informative meeting on "Timber and Grazing Opportunities" to the quarterly meeting of the **Houston County Forest Landowner Association**.

Henry County Ranger Tommy Haynes and **RC&D Forester Brian Bradley** spoke to a group of fifty **Abbeville High School** students about forestry careers as part of a **Boy Scouts Career Program**.

Coffee County landowners were treated to a demonstration of the **AFC's** portable sawmill as part of the continuing effort of the **County Forestry Advisory Committee** to promote Forestry.

A slide show (based upon information from the **SCS** and **Extension Service**) and containerized tree seedlings were part of a program on **Marginal Cropland Conversion** conducted by **RC&D Forester Brian Bradley** during the **RC&D Annual Meeting** in **Eufaula**.

Barbour County Forester Don VanHouten and **Urban Forest Coordinator Barry Lawrence** presented a program on **TREE City-USA** to the **Eufaula City Council**. **Eufaula** was recently certified as a **TREE CITY**.

County Supervisor Bruce Hancock presented a **TREASURE Forest** and **Wildlife** program to the **Dale County Kiwanis Club**.

The Pike County Forestry Association held its quarterly meeting this past quarter with **Keith Guyse**, **Department of Conservation's Wildlife Biologist**, speaking on **Wildlife management practices**; **AFC's Ranger Mike Stinson** demonstrating a variety of **beaver traps** and discussing their use; and **Association Chairman Milton McKeller** talking about tree planting.

Jane Knox accepted the award for her family's property being certified as a new **TREASURE Forest** in **Houston County** during a ceremony at the **County Forest Landowner's Association**.

The Wiregrass Area 1984 Forestry Edition to the **Dothan Eagle** was recently printed and focused on the significance of forestry in the **Wiregrass**. Cooperation from **Forestry Planning Committee agencies**, industry and local consultants helped make the supplement a success.

Coffee County landowner **J. E. Pittman** was officially recognized as the newest **TREASURE Forest** landowner during a presentation on the property conducted by **County Supervisor Wayne Roberts** and **Forester Bob DeVaughan**.

District Six's first **Junior TREASURE Forest** award was presented to **Alex Whaley, Jr.** of **Pike County** during the last meeting of the **County Forestry Association**. **Alex** manages a 99 acre

tract of land for timber and wildlife along with helping his father manage his forestland. Congratulations on being the first **Junior TF** in the **Wiregrass** and one of three across **Alabama**!

District Six employees spearheaded by **Coffee, Barbour and Houston Counties** along with **Fire Specialist Bruce Bowden** have been very busy installing "permanent" firelanes for area landowners to facilitate yearly prescribed burning activities. They are finding that many forest owners are clamoring for these wide lanes installed with **JD 450 tractors**.

Accepting the award for his aunt **Julia Allen**, **Pike County** landowner and forest manager **Charles Botts** recently received a framed **TREASURE Forest Certificate** and sign. **Charlie** carries out the management practices on the 195 acre tract in northeast **Pike County**.

Acting County Supervisor Tracy Lawrence demonstrated his usual initiative and uniqueness when he had framed a commemorative **Smokey Bear** envelope along with the **TREASURE Forest Certificate** for **Marilyn** and **Gene Ragan** of **Houston County**. The result was strikingly attractive and was obviously prized by **Mrs. Ragan** during the televised ceremony at their property in east **Houston County**.

DISTRICT 7

On November 1, 1984, the **Escambia County Forestry Committee** held a **Portable Sawmill Demonstration** on **J. C. Bagwell's** property in **Escambia County**. We had a very excellent response from the timber landowners. During the demonstration we cut 1770 Bd. ft. of lumber. **Treasure Forest Certificates** were presented to **Charles Northcutt**, **Lillie Parker**, and **C. C. Huxford Trust**.

On **Wednesday November 14, 1984** the **Butler County Forestry Committee** along with the **Farm Bureau** and the **Alabama Forestry Commission** organized a forestry tour. About 60 people were present for this event. **Farm Bureau** provided a bus and lunch for the tour. The tour featured timber land owned by **James Alexander**, **Albert Middleton** and **Keville Larson**. **C. W. Moody**, **State Forester**, was our program moderator. Following lunch, **Keville Larson** and **Robert Foster** told us about forestry reforestation practices used on **Deer Run Farm**.

On **October 24, 1984**, the **Monroe County Forestry Committee** sponsored a forestry tour on **Senator Ann Bedssole's** property located in **Monroe County**. There were 130 landowners and forest industry people registered for tour which began at 9:00 AM at **Alabama River Pulp Park**. **Monroe County** school buses were furnished to carry guests from the papermill to the **Bedssole farm**. After lunch an awards presentation was held. **Hilton Watson** was the **Master of Ceremony**. **C. W. Moody**, **State Forester**, presented **Treasure Forest** signs to **Senator Ann Bedssole**, **Bert Burroughs** from **Monroe County** and **Leo Kirkland** and **Roy Etheridge** from **Marengo County**. **Representative Jimmy Warren** pre-

sented **Guy and Margaret Booker** with a Champion Tree plaque for a Champion Mockernut Hickory on their property near Pine Orchard in Monroe County. **Don Smith**, from **Southern Forest Institute**, Atlanta Region, presented Tree Farmer signs to **Margaret Garrett**, **William Cole**, **Bert Burroughs** and **Senator Ann Bedsole**. **Ron True**, with **Alabama River Woodlands**, presented awards for a poster contest. Students from all schools in Monroe County and Repton School in Conecuh County were eligible to enter. **Senator Ann Bedsole** and **Representative Sister Strong** spoke to landowners on the importance of Multiple Use Forestry practices. Treasure Forest, economical benefits of forestry related industry to Monroe County, and the needs for continued source of forest products. **H.K.(JAP) Brown**, ASCS Special Projects Coordinator, was guest speaker and talked to landowners about the Forest Incentive Program.

The Forestry Committee thanks the Alabama Forestry Commission State Office personnel, Mr. Alvin Downing and District 7 personnel and everyone else for their help and support that made this our biggest and best Forestry Tour ever in Monroe County. We are all looking forward to next year's tour.

DISTRICT

8

A tree planter that the **Clarke County Forestry Committee** had built is complete. The tree planter will be used by landowners in Clarke County and was built by a local State technical college from blueprints provided by **Auburn University** and was paid for by the **Forestry Committee of Clarke County Farm Bureau**.

On January 8, 1985, the **Washington County Forestry Committee** met to finalize plans for a Forestry Tour to be held February 12, 1985. The tour viewed fertilization plots on **Champion International** land and different types of skidders and the **Forestry Commission's** portable sawmill on an area arranged by **International Paper Company**.

The **Ala-Tom Resource Conservation and Development Council** met in **Thomasville** on January 10, 1985. The Alabama-Tombigbee Waterway and the Alabama Resources Conservation Program were discussed.

The Alabama Forestry Commission's Treasure Forest display and Smokey Bear were used at **Farm-City Week** activities held in **Bel-Air Mall** in **Mobile** on November 17 and 18. **Mobile County forest rangers** coordinated the use of the display with **Mr. Cecil Tanner**, Chairman of the Mobile County Farm Bureau Forestry Committee.

DISTRICT

9

District 9 personnel recently took part in an interview with a local FM Radio Station which covers all of North Alabama and surrounding states. The two-part interview consisted of comments by **District Forester Gerald Steeley**, **Dispatcher George Tucker** and **Pilot Ralph Montgomery**. ☐

Checking Seedling Survival

By **DON BURDETTE**, Forester, Information and Education, Alabama Forestry Commission

IF YOU HAVE INVESTED TIME, money and energy into tree planting this past winter, then you can probably identify with other Alabama landowners who are anxious about the outcome of their reforestation efforts. It's only natural to wonder if the trees were in good condition when they were planted, if they were planted properly, and if they will survive the dangers of severe weather and insect attacks during their first year. Checking the pine and hardwood seedlings at the end of the summer will help you to determine if enough survived to provide adequate stocking or if replanting will be necessary.

Begin your survival check during March or April by establishing the centers of ten, one-hundredth acre plots on each planted area. The plot centers should be as evenly distributed throughout the area as possible and marked with a highly visible stake (FIGURE 1). Locating each stake on a map using compass bearings and distance (in chains, feet, steps or other units of measurement with which you are familiar) from a fixed point may help you to find them again at the end of the summer. Mark every seedling within 11 feet 9.3 inches (the radius of a one-hundredth acre circular plot) of each center stake with a flag or colored ribbon (FIGURE 2).

In late fall, return to each stake and count the marked seedlings within the plot radius that are still living. Multiply the number of living trees on a particular plot by 100 to get the approximate number of trees per acre (to the nearest hundred) at that plot. By adding up the number of trees per acre for all of the plots and dividing by 10 you have the average number of trees per acre for the entire stand.

Generally, if 400 or more well distributed seedlings survive per acre, it isn't cost effective to replant. If there are fewer than 400 trees, you may choose to clear the

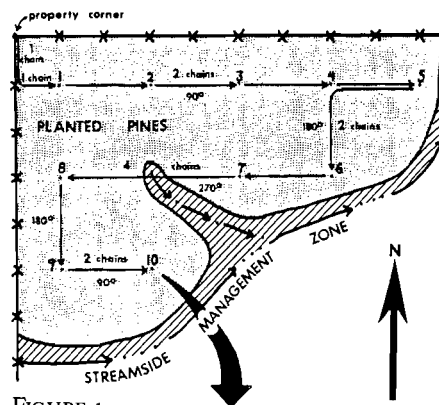


FIGURE 1

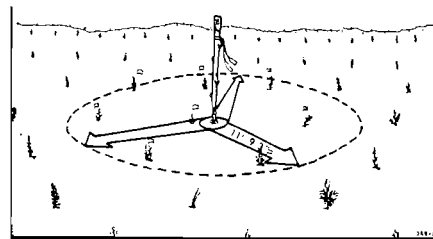


FIGURE 2

remaining seedlings and start over or interplant the open spots among the surviving trees. Consult with a forester if you cannot decide if your new stand is adequately stocked.

Although first year survival of a new stand of trees is certainly important, favorable weather may conceal the mishandling or poor planting of seedlings that occurred before and during the reforestation efforts. Mortality may begin to occur the second or third year after planting if dry weather develops. Trees planted with bent roots may start to tip under the force of high winds or the weight of ice six to eight years later. By the time the trees reach good pulpwood or small sawlog size, additional loss may occur from windthrow. ☐

Jerry Smith, Staff Forester, has transferred to Houston County as County Forester.

Hats off to **Danny Deaton**, Colbert County Supervisor and **Steve McEachron**, Lauderdale County Forester. These men are active in the local Emergency Management Agency. They went in to work immediately during the ice storm and worked night and day—all week. They transported hospital personnel to and from work, delivered emergency supplies such as food and medicine to people who were stranded.

Marion County personnel have constructed a water tank for one of their tractors. Equipped with an air pressure hose, the water can be used to extinguish break overs and also for protecting the tractor. If you want to know more, contact **Tony Avery**, Marion County Forester.

DISTRICT

10

The **Russell County Forestry Planning Committee** has a number of tree planting dibbles that are being loaned to land-

owners. These dibbles were made in the County Ranger's shop in Seale from materials furnished by the **Russell County Soil Conservation District**.

Treasure Forest certification was presented to **Mr. Horace Mathews** at his cabin in **Hurtsboro** by Russell County Supervisor **Melvin Phelps** and District Conservationist **Betty Touchton** of the S.C.S. on February 12.

Members of the **Russell County Forestry Planning Committee** presented an Arbor Day program in **Hurtsboro** on February 12. ☐

Why Treasure Forest?

by NEIL LETSON, Treasure Forest Coordinator

WHETHER YOU HAVE READ ABOUT IT IN the newspaper, heard about it during a landowner meeting, or seen a sign on the roadway, chances are you know about the TREASURE Forest program. (See "Alabama's TREASURE Forest Program" in *ALABAMA'S TREASURED FORESTS*, Winter 1983). To the many who were involved in its creation, it is hard to believe the program is almost ten years old. Yet within that time, TREASURE Forest has evolved into a concept that clearly offers the best opportunity for fully utilizing our state's tremendous forest resources. Much has been said and written about the mechanics of this Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC) program, but not a whole lot has been said about why TREASURE Forest was created.

TREASURE Is Created

Though uniquely an Alabama program, TREASURE Forest came into being during a time of ever growing national public sentiment over the use of our natural resources. Forestry was suddenly being criticized by an increasing number of groups over such issues as clearcutting and monoculture. Foresters found themselves on the defensive for the first time. Also at odds were the different resource managers whose specialties (wildlife, timber, recreation, etc.) often conflicted with one another. As the battlelines were drawn, the prospects for a settled peace seemed remote if not impossible.

In 1973, though, an important step was taken to reverse the trend which was occurring. The heads of each governmental (state and federal) agency with responsibilities over Alabama's natural resources began meeting to address the problem. They realized that forestry embodied many resource benefits, and when managed properly, our forests were capable of meeting the needs of all the people in the state. They also agreed that a program was needed to encourage and recognize cases where multiple-use management was being practiced.

In August, 1974, the AFPC (See "Alabama Forestry Planning Committee" in *ALABAMA'S TREASURED FORESTS*, Winter

1983) officially adopted the TREASURE Forest program. One year later, the property of W. Kelly Mosley in Marengo County was certified as Alabama's first TREASURE Forest. Since then over 320 other forest landowners have been equally certified, and over 250 others have signed the TREASURE Forest Landowner's Creed and are actively working toward certification.

Benefits Extend To All Sectors

As we approach the tenth anniversary since the first certified TREASURE Forest, let's look at the program and measure its



value. Indeed there are some very important values to consider.

TREASURE Forest is unique in the way it takes into account the *sensitivity of the public's demand on the forest*. TREASURE Forest encourages a landowner to manage for timber, wildlife, recreation, environmental quality and aesthetics. The forest landowner selects two of these values as his key objectives while considering the remaining values in his overall plan. By managing his property with all resource values considered, then the landowner is helping to provide benefits from the forest that affect everyone.

TREASURE Forest *coordinates the services of all resource managers*. In the past it was not uncommon for a landowner to receive management advice from a forester, wildlife specialist and soil conservationist separately and independently of one another. In most cases their recommendations overlapped or conflicted. This was confusing to the landowner and often caused him to choose one over the other while failing to implement all

management suggestions. Because TREASURE Forest requires the consideration of all resource values, resource managers are now coordinating their services in a way that is more meaningful to the landowner and his property.

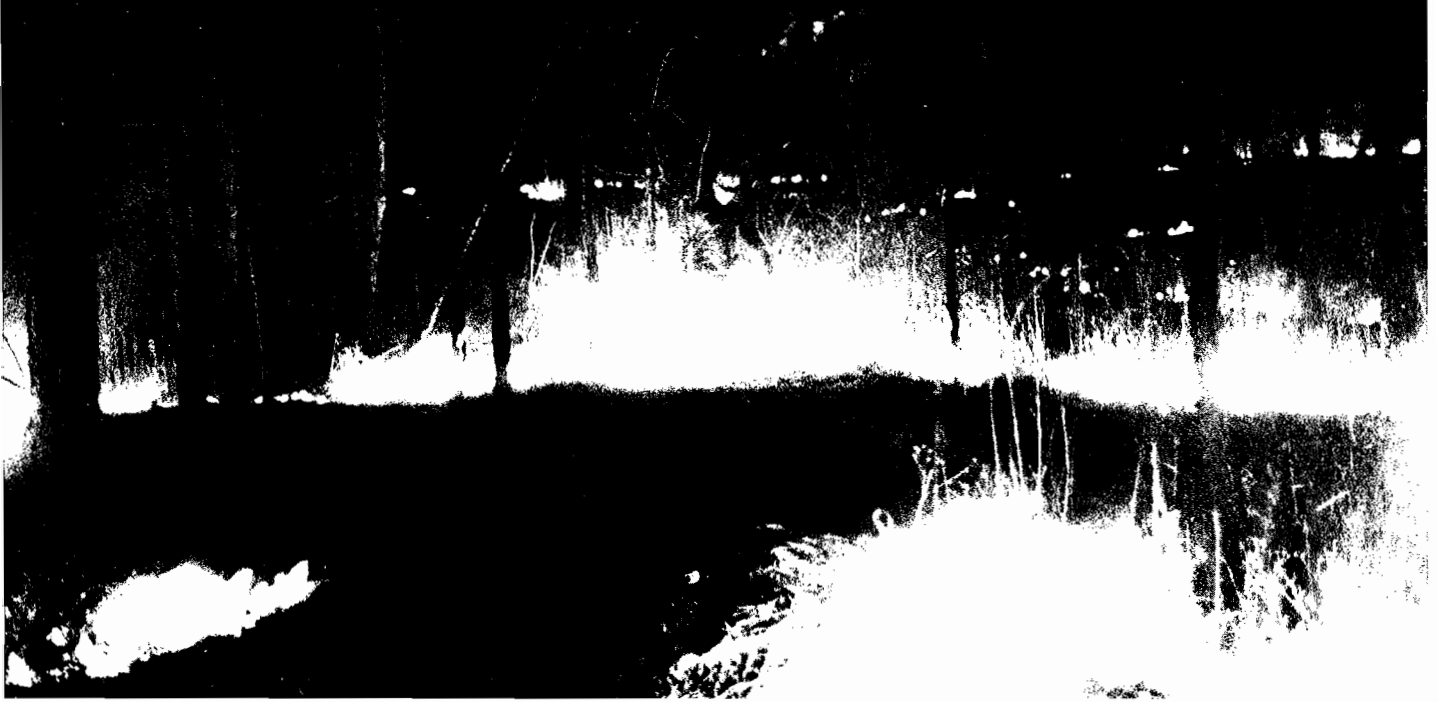
TREASURE Forest *supports private land ownership*. One of Alabama's TREASURE Forest landowners was recently quoted as saying, "To make the land better, a person has to own it. You can visit the land of another and enjoy the resources, but the only way to improve it is to own it!" This statement adequately describes the feeling of many of our state's landowners. Instead of imposing regulations, requirements, and binding obligations, the TREASURE Forest program attempts to stimulate a landowner to voluntarily manage for his own interests with a regard for others. This concept of stewardship for the land is central to the program.

TREASURE Forest *is an ethic*. Probably the single most important reason TREASURE Forest came into being was the loss in credibility forestry suffered in the eyes of the general public. Many believed forest management meant harvesting the timber with no regard to the total environment. This definitely caused foresters and other resource managers to become accountable to the public they served...and this was good. TREASURE Forest is the best tool in the state for all people to regain their respect and appreciation for forestry and all forms of resource management. It is forest management with a conscience.

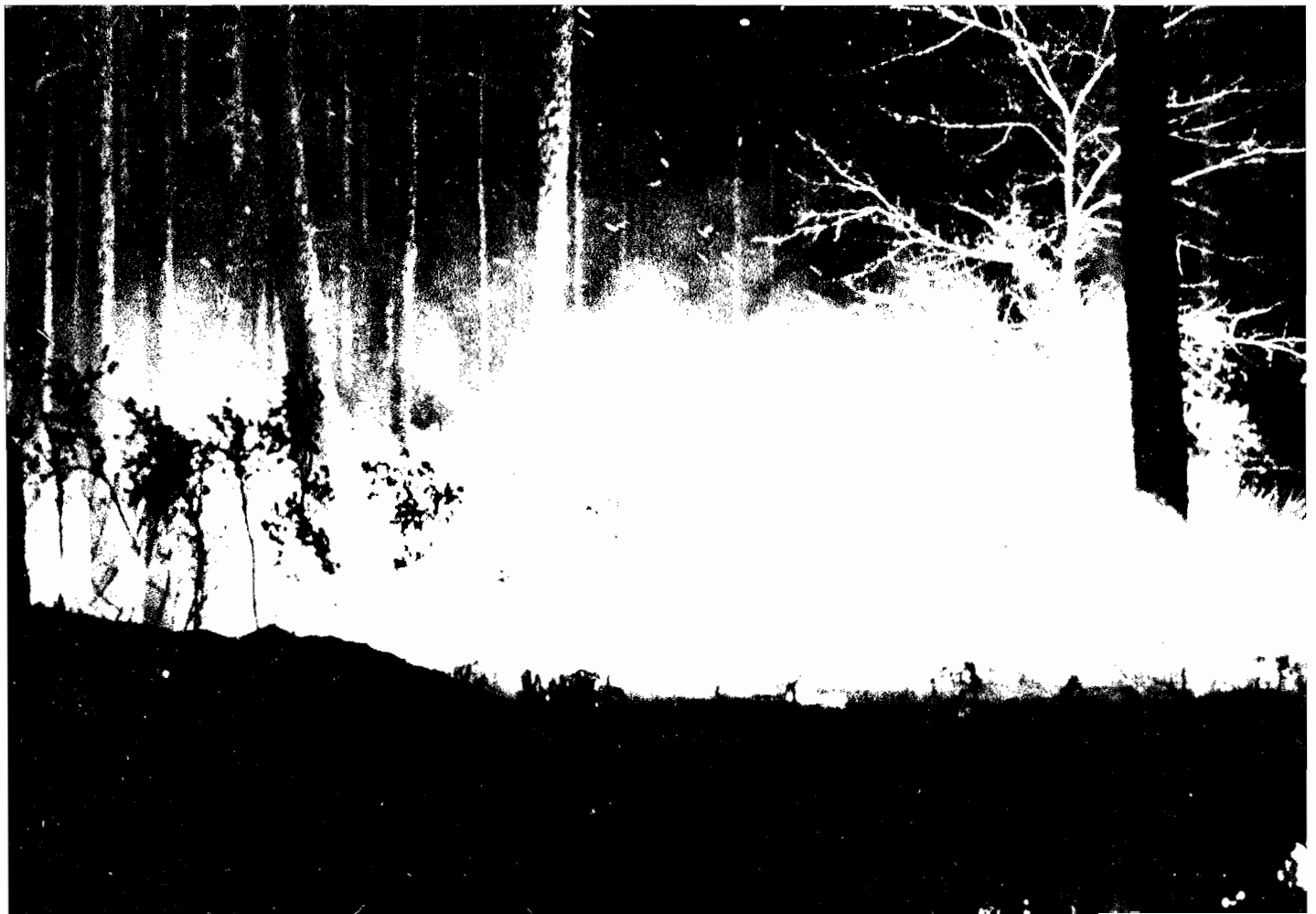
TREASURE Forest *considers future generations*. Unfortunately, many of the problems forest landowners face today are those left from previous generations. Being a TREASURE Forest landowner carries the responsibility of managing the forest as a sustained usable resource. Bealie Harrison in Clarke County best describes this by saying, "Every landowner is a guardian of his land for the brief time that he's here. It's important that he be a good steward...he doesn't just get the benefits for himself and his family, but for others and their families and for the future...I want mine (forest) to make that contribution!" ♣

WILDFIRE

A Threat To Southern Forests



By Hugh E. Mobley, Fire Section Chief, Alabama Forestry Commission



THE SOUTH IS BLESSED with an abundance of a natural renewable resource—forests! Lying in one of the most productive forest areas in all the world, the South produced more timber products than any other section of the nation during the past century. Our region's managing to produce so much while simultaneously increasing timber growth represents a triumph of industrial forestry.

In the amount of commercial forest land, Alabama and Georgia are only outranked by Oregon. In the amount of state and private forest land, Alabama and Georgia are only outranked by Montana. About seventy-five percent of this forest resource in the South is owned by the private non-industrial landowners. Because of this vast natural resource, the forest products industries make a larger contribution to the South's economy than any other manufacturing industry, and ranks number one in Alabama and Georgia while placing near the top in most other Southern states.

All is not perfectly well, however, as most of our forest land is producing well below its potential. The major cause of this deficiency is wildfires. One of the responsibilities of the Alabama Forestry Commission is the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires, which averages about 7,000 annually and burns about 137,000 acres in our state. To counter this threat, we operate 160 tractor-plow units, 17 aircraft (which are the backbone of our detection system), and a number of lookout towers. However, our most important detection source is the public. Without this help, it would be next to impossible for the Commission to handle the wildfire problem. Alabama is not alone as other Southern states experience similar problems.

There are many reasons why the damage from wildfires is such a serious problem in the South—increases in population, more leisure time and use of forests for recreation, more sub-divisions and homes in rural areas, and more industrial activity in forested acres due to more intensive management. Incendiarism (setting of fires on purpose) is the number one cause and is affecting the economy of the Southern states. Ever-increasing values of all our forest resources also result in greater damage by wildfire—and much of this damage is not readily

The high-intensity, damaging wildfires degrade the wildlife habitat. The more desirable plant species are killed and replaced with less desirable species that are not food producing for wildlife. Repeated wildfires will completely eliminate the more important wildlife foods and the cover for protection by wildlife.

Wildfires also pollute our atmosphere!

Most of the criteria pollutants are found in forestry smoke. One that can be produced in sufficient quantity to be of concern is particulates. The most serious problem is the reduction of visibility on highways, being quite drastic in the local area at night when smoke will tend to flow down stream and across low areas. Many smoke-caused accidents have resulted in injuries and even death.

Our state rangers put in many hours of overtime during the fire season without pay to help combat this situation. Many times, they go from fire to fire until exhausted before all blazes are contained. During periods of high fire danger, some fires may not be manned until the next day!

Almost all suppression units are manned by only one man. A minimum of two is needed. With only one person, the unit is inactive if that one person is unable to work. Using one-man crews is also unsafe, especially, at night. The equipment used is large and complex, and often the firefighting is in unpopulated areas where prompt help is not usually available.

Some large forest industries with large amounts of forest land have some backup suppression units with trained operators. These units are used to suppress wildfires on or near their lands when our units are committed on other fires. However, the farmer and smaller landowners have no such backup. He has to depend entirely on the State to protect his land from wildfires.

The rural volunteer fire departments, who are supported with grants and receive training to the fullest extent possible, are also very cooperative and assist in suppressing wildfires. Forest industries sometimes put their equipment and personnel at the state's disposal during extreme periods. Assistance from other agencies such as the National Guard and State Troopers is also made available. Even so, firefighting forces are overwhelmed many times. Even when they appear! Even a small surface fire will kill seedlings and small trees—especially if the soil and litter are dry or a dry period occurs after the fire. In some areas, no damage may occur if brought under control quickly or if the soil is not dry. Large, fast-spreading, high-intensity fires cause the most severe damage. Such fires occur during adverse weather conditions in areas where large amounts of fuel are available. Also, because our limited suppression forces are generally overwhelmed on such days by the number and size of wildfires that occur, these fires may go unchecked for many hours, allowing time to become even larger. Merchantable timber and young trees are killed outright from such large, high-intensity fires. The fire-weakened trees are more susceptible to

attack by insects or may die from drought many years after the fire.

Wildfires can also alter the character of the forest, especially repeated wildfires. A forest of valuable pines may, in time, become a scrubby growth of inferior species because larger trees or young trees are destroyed by repeated burning. Even though a wildfire may not kill a tree, it can leave a fire scar where disease can enter, causing heartrot. The bark of hardwoods is not an effective insulator and consequently, these trees are more easily killed.

Wildfires can also impair the ability of watersheds by consuming ground litter which absorbs rainfall and holds back runoff. The lower litter and organic material will burn if dry—reducing site quality. Soil pores will become clogged, resulting in reduced water-holding capacity. The top layer of soil will dry out from the sun when exposed, making it difficult to reestablish any type of vegetation. Hot fires will reduce the soil microflora and nutrients, and the hotter the fire, the slower they are to recover. Long-term productivity of the soil can easily be affected. Plants, brush, and litter on the forest floor help to buffer the soil from the churning action of falling raindrops. When bare soil is exposed, surface runoff will carry suspended soil particles and other material into adjacent streams and lakes—reducing the quality of water. Temperature of the water will rise when vegetation and shade along stream banks are destroyed by fire, making the streams less suitable for trout and other fish. Ashes and silt can also be washed into the water, disrupting aquatic life.

are not, wildfires may still be larger and more damaging than acceptable for our forest land to be fully productive. This production is needed to meet our future demands on the forest industry in the South.

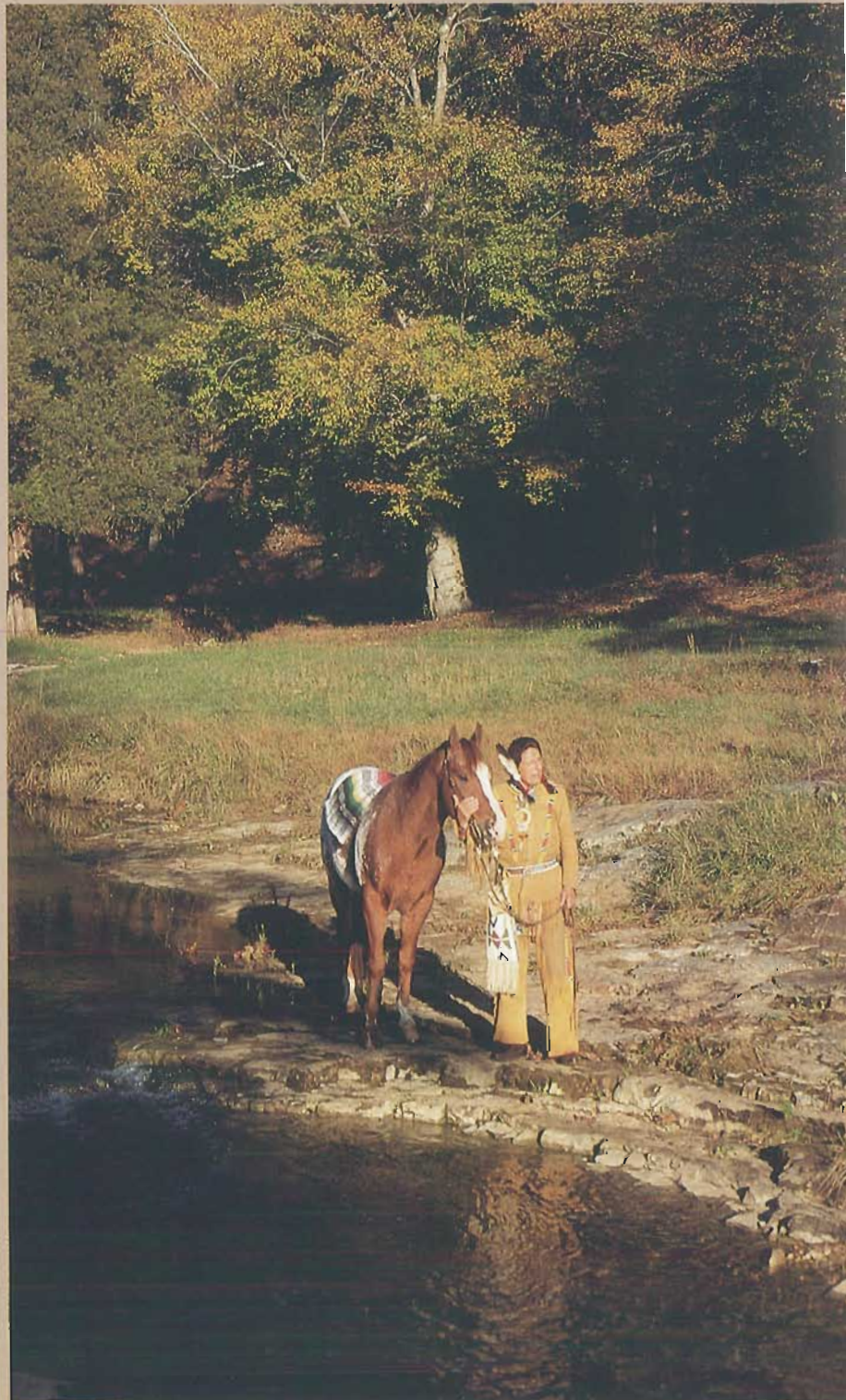
The need for better fire protection is urgent! The South's population will increase almost 50% by the year 2000. Demand for outdoor recreation is doubling every 5 to 8 years. Water needs and environmental quality demands will increase as our population increases. Demands for forest products will increase as our population increases. Demands for forest products will double in 30 years. As the overmature timber in the Northwest is cut, the South will become the "woodbasket" for the country. Yet, industry is discouraged to locate in many areas because of the limited fire protection available to forest land. Without the help of the citizens, the Southern forestry agencies have an impossible task. Your continued support and assistance is appreciated. With your help, the various state forest agencies will meet our goal of reducing the wildfire damage to acceptable levels. ♣

Crying Indian Smiles About Alabama's TREASURE

K *Keep America Beautiful's "Crying Indian," Iron Eyes Cody, is featured in a recently released television spot promoting Alabama's TREASURE Forest Program. Filmed in Northeast Alabama at the farms of Steve Tondera and Floyd Clemons, the spot will be aired on stations all over the state.*

Voluntarily created for the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee by Sayers, Martin, & Seifried Advertising Agency in Huntsville, the spot depicts Cody in various forest settings representing the many benefits of TREASURE Forest management.

Even though the chill factor pushed the mercury far below freezing, media coverage for the filming on November 12 was exceptional as the farms were transformed into movie sets.





Pictured with Cody, the Clemons are representative of the more than 300 TREASURE Forest landowners in Alabama.

After filming was complete, State Forester C. W. Moody presented Cody with a TREASURE Forest "Support" Award. ♣



Photos on this page by Charles Seifried, Sayers, Martin, & Seifried Advertising Agency in Huntsville; and Cynthia K. Page, Alabama Forestry Commission.



CALENDAR*

April 9-10—Tallapoosa County. Quarterly Board meeting of Alabama Wildlife Federation. Landowners welcome. Call 832-9453.

April 11—Elmore County, 7:00 p.m., County Forest Landowners Association to discuss insects and disease. Contact Lynn Justiss, 567-5486.

April 11-12—Blacksburg, Virginia. Virginia Tech Forestry and Wildlife Forum. Theme is Forest Resources in Regional Economic Growth. Ten leaders from industry and governmental agencies will examine trends

and potentials of forests as a vehicle for regional economic growth. Contact O. F. Hall, School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, VPI & SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061, (703) 961-7264.

April 13—Jefferson, Bibb, Tuscaloosa Counties. Annual meeting of Alabama Forest Owners Association at Tannehill Historical State Park. Contact Lee Laechelt 798-3227.

April 17-18—Houston County, Hardwood Management Symposium. Contact Tom Cambre, 825-9284.

April 22-24—Louisville, Kentucky. Computer Software Symposium & Fair sponsored by Forest Products Research Society. Contact Susan Rutter, (608) 231-1361.

April 23—Tallapoosa County, 9:00 a.m., Forest Regeneration. Call Jerry Hanks, 825-4228.

April 25—Tuscaloosa County, 7:00 p.m., Program by Forestry Planning Committee. Call Mark Beeler, 333-1590.

July 9-10—Forest Herbicide Workshop, Montgomery Civic Center, Montgomery. Scientists to discuss use of forest herbicides for site preparation and pine release. Other benefits, proper use and application methods also to be discussed. Call Dr. Bill McKee, (205) 826-5330.

July 15-19—Alabama Forestry Association's Teacher Conservation Workshop, Auburn University. Designed for teachers K-12 who provide instruction in natural resources. A \$10 registration covers room and board for the week. Continuing Education Units earned. Contact Rei Boyce, 265-8733. ♣

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

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION HALF CENTURY OF PROGRESS



Soil Conservation Service

1935



1985

Alabama Conservation Districts



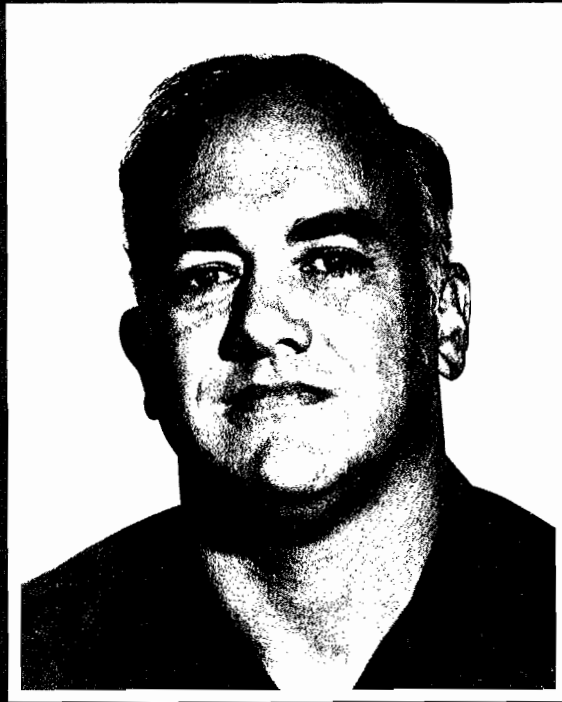
By MORRIS GILLESPIE, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY of America's soil and water conservation movement will be celebrated during 1985, with an intensive observance on April 27,—the golden anniversary of the creation of the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A 50th anniversary banquet will be held on April 27, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, D.C. Vice-President Bush has been invited to speak. A commemorative U.S. postage stamp saluting

soil and water conservation has been issued.

In Alabama, the Soil Conservation Service and the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts will be observing the 50th Anniversary throughout the year and especially during April, according to Ernest Todd, State Conservationist. A slide set, "The First 50 Years," is available for showing to civic clubs and other groups. Viewing time is 16 minutes for the taped narrative which is programmed for use with a

sync recorder. Contact the local office of the Soil Conservation Service for scheduling. Magazines and both weekly and daily newspapers are expected to have either special soil conservation sections or editions during the week of April 27. Governor Wallace has been requested to proclaim 1985 as "The Year of Soil and Water Conservation" and probate judges in the various counties are encouraged to do likewise. ♣



MEMORIAL TO A. RAY COVIN

The employees of the Alabama Forestry Commission express their sympathy to the family of A. Ray Covin who died December 20, 1984. We offer this memorial to preserve the memory of a man well respected as a professional, much admired by his peers, and fondly remembered as our friend. His presence in our midst added meaning to our lives, a meaning his absence can never remove.



The Rewards of a Treasure Forest

Managing your woodland as an Alabama Treasure Forest has its rewards. You benefit from timber production, wildlife, recreation, a cleaner environment...a more beautiful state. Actually, everyone benefits when man and the forest work together as partners in life. If you own Alabama woodland, contact the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee for more information about the rewards of a Treasure Forest. Write:

Treasure
Box 2327
Montgomery,
AL 36102



You May Own An Alabama Treasure

More and more woodland owners are discovering the benefits of the Alabama Treasure Forest program. Their efforts help our state enjoy better timber production, more wildlife, better recreation and a cleaner environment.

If you own Alabama woodland, contact the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee for more information about the rewards of a Treasure Forest.

Treasure
Box 2327
Montgomery,
AL 36102



Alabama's TREASURED Forests
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 272
MONTGOMERY, AL