A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water reflecting the surrounding greenery. A large tree with dense white flowers is the central focus, partially obscuring the background. The background is filled with lush green foliage and trees. The overall scene is serene and natural.

**Alabama's  
TREASURED  
Forests**

*S u m m e r* • 1 9 8 8

# STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

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by C.W. MOODY

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**M**any words have been written about our last legislative session. Most have not been complimentary. From my perspective, which was right in the middle trying to pass several pieces of legislation, I can say that it was certainly democracy in action. It was an extended exercise by several interests trying to achieve their own objectives, sometimes to the detriment of other interests. The bottom line was that no dominant force developed and negotiations were still underway through the end of the session.

Actually, this could be a prelude to a better system of checks and balances in the legislative process, and Alabama could be the better for it. When no single force dominates, chances are pretty good that the legislation and budgets which get through the process have been closely scrutinized and pork has been held to a minimum.

Having said all that, one might conclude that our legislative program went well. *One could not be more wrong!* Not a *single* piece of legislation in which we had an interest passed—no litter bill, no statewide acreage assessment on forestland, no cigarette tax for volunteer fire departments, and no budget for the Alabama Forestry Commission. “The wheels grind slow, but they grind exceeding fine.”

On a more positive note, everyone connected with the Fifth Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference is working hard to ensure a successful event. James Hughes and his group have lined up a good program for landowners, and I’m looking forward to seeing many of you there. **Please take the time now to fill out the registration form found in this issue, and return it.**

We look forward to seeing many of you at the conference in August!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C.W. Moody". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

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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.

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Cover Photo: Alabama lakes, ponds, and streams are inviting in the heat of summer. This was shot at Camp Sumatunga in St. Clair County by Coleen Vansant.

# Alabama's TREASURED Forests

Volume VII

Summer Issue, 1988

Number 3

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# Wilmon Timberlands Inc.

by COLEEN VANSANT, Contributing Editor

**T**REASURE Forest is unique—unique in the fact that it is the only forest management program of its kind in the nation, the Cadillac of forest management practices. Achievers of the TREASURE award are distinct in their own right, and this is what makes Alabama's TREASURE Forest program what it is today.

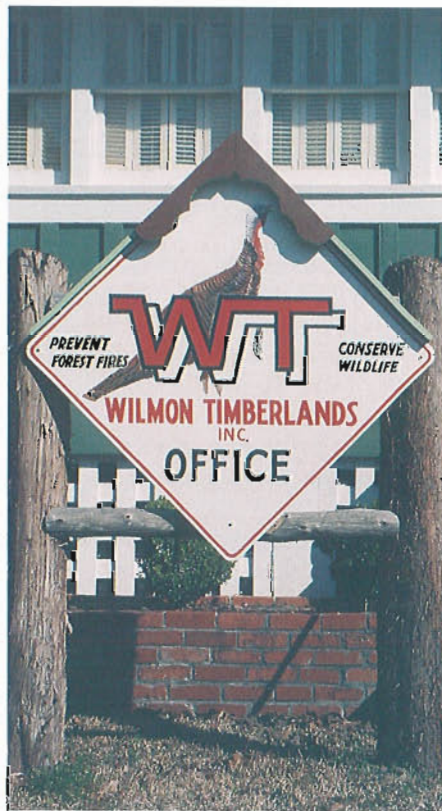
Over 540 TREASURE Forests are currently located within the boundaries of Alabama, each one possessing many of the same characteristics, yet at the same time, standing aside from the rest with its own individuality.

Wilmon Timberlands, Inc., is a shining example of that distinctiveness. From its colorful history to its unique forests, to the man who, in essence, is its creator and caretaker.

## The Making of a Community

In order to develop a clear understanding of Wilmon, you have to travel back to the year 1912 when Peter Vredenburgh, from Illinois, first settled in the Wilcox and Monroe County area. Around 78,000 acres of forestland was purchased by Vredenburgh, and the availability and abundance of the valuable resource soon gave birth to a sawmill in northern Monroe County. With the growth and success of the sawmill, the community grew to support hundreds of residents, and was officially incorporated under the name of its founder, Vredenburgh.

For years to come, the Vredenburgh mill was the lifeblood of the community, and the everyday lives of the citizens of the town were dependent not only on the sawmill for jobs, but on the town as a whole. The company store, housing in and around the



**A sign of quality.**

city, and all other buildings and attractions were all owned by Peter Vredenburgh.

## The Making of an Industry

In time, Vredenburgh became well known for the quality lumber it produced and the high grade timber that came from its forests. In 1954, the Vredenburgh mill and timber holdings were sold, with the 78,000 acres being purchased by International Paper Company, Scott Paper Company, and three

individuals—W. Sam Carpenter, C. Porter Schutt, and G. T. Weymouth.

The partnership continued for seven years, as Vredenburgh Alabama Properties, with Frank M. Stewart overseeing the forests and tending the partnership interests. Twelve months later, in 1955, an additional 24,000 acres of land was purchased by the partnership, bringing their total in landholdings to just over 100,000 acres.

By the early 60's, the interests in the partnership had changed, and because of this, the company was dissolved and each of the three landowners, International Paper, Scott Paper, and the three individuals, went their own way, each taking 34,000 acres of forestland. With the dissolution, Wilmon Timberlands, Inc. (the name coming from Wilcox and Monroe counties where the majority of the land was located) was born.

Stewart continued to serve as manager of the company and caretaker of the vast forestlands. For nine years, the company prospered under his guiding hands and expertise, and again the reputation of producing quality sawtimber became a trademark of the company.

In 1971, Carpenter, Schutt, and Weymouth divided the land into equal parts, with the tracts being placed into trusts for their grandchildren. Once again, Stewart was given the task of managing the landholdings. For 17 years, Stewart has managed the timberland of the three trusts, as well as additional landholdings for clients of Wilmon Timberlands, Inc.

## The Making of a TREASURE

Today, Vredenburgh is no longer the bustling mill town that it once was. In 1962



**“Optimum forest management” the production of quality timber.**

the mill burned. Ben Jones of Columbus, Georgia, purchased and rebuilt the sawmill, later selling it to Bendix Corporation. In the early 80’s, Bendix auctioned off the sawmill piece by piece. Since so many of the valuable jobs that held local residents to the town had vanished, the population of Vredenburgh dwindled to around 500, and the once busy streets now seem almost empty.

But even though the mill has long since gone, the philosophy of good forest management did not go with it. Wilmon Timberlands, Inc. now dominates the town of Vredenburgh, and the over seven decades of managing the natural resources in the town’s history, is one of the many characteristics that led it to become the state’s 29th TREASURE Forest in 1976.

Over the years, forest management philosophy in the South has been to plant, grow to merchantable age, harvest and regenerate, with timely thinnings and prescribed burning along the way to insure a profitable crop. But as you travel across Wilmon’s forestland, you won’t see the usual thousands upon thousands of acres of pine plantations in various ages, and you won’t find signs of burning. That’s because there isn’t any.

According to the Wilmon Timberlands, Inc. Land Management-Policy Statement, they believe in, and practice “selective management” on their timberland. In the statement this is defined as “practical forestry based on the judgement of men in

the woods working with existing stands of timber, and requires unusual perception and silvicultural understanding to make on-the-ground judgements.” The policy adds that selective management is “an art in which the forester will use his professional knowledge to make decisions in the field, since no amount of description can completely explain the applications.”

Stewart explained that he practices an “optimum selection method” and selects “every tree that comes out.” Every tree from Wilmon is carefully grown, marked, and sold on the stump. No clear-cuts take place, which according to Stewart, is not only better for the land, but better for the private landowner as well. Wilmon supports the philosophy that selective cuts decrease the danger of soil erosion, fire, insects and disease, pose a lesser risk to game habitat, has a lower cost, and in the long run, has a more favorable impact on the ecological system of the land.

Existing stands are managed whether they are even-aged, uneven-aged or all aged, and except for areas where seeds will not germinate or where there is no natural seed source, all regeneration on Wilmon-managed land is natural.

“We get natural regeneration,” the forester added. “Whatever it turns out to be, so be it.”

Most of the land owned and managed by Wilmon is mixed hardwood and pine which



**Natural regeneration of hardwood and pine timber is practiced on Wilmon managed property.**



**A virgin southern pine provides seeds for the next generation.**

contributes to both their objectives—timber and wildlife. No burning is allowed, which according to Stewart, “is not detrimental to wildlife management.” Food trees and plants are left for wildlife, along with provisions made for nesting and breeding areas for game animals.

From 1962 to 1985, a 4,000-acre game sanctuary was managed by Wilmon, but was released for deer and turkey hunting in 1985. Currently, approximately 80 percent of lands managed by Wilmon has been divided and leased to hunting clubs.

Wilmon is one of the state’s largest TREASURE Forests, with over 50,000 acres belonging to the three trusts, which constitutes the TREASURE Forest. In all, they manage over 65,000 acres of land in 13 counties.

Their expertise in forest management is given to five trusts, four individual land-owners, and several small tracts. In addition to Stewart, his son Frank, III, is a registered forester, along with four fulltime foresters on staff, one forestry intern, and a forestry technician. Wilmon employs a total of 11 fulltime employees.

Stewart adds that Wilmon Timberlands, Inc. practices “intensive forestry at its best,” and what some people say he loses in volume “we gain in product diversity.”

“Paper companies are after fiber, and we’re after quality,” he explained. “You can either grow fiber or you can grow a quality product.”

# EDITOR'S UNDERSTORY

by COLEEN VANSANT

**D**URING A LIFETIME you come across those very special people who are dedicated to what they do and what they believe in. Not just in their personal lives, but at home and in the community as well.

They are proud people. Hard working. Not only concerned with today, but looking to the future as well. This very well describes Frank Stewart of Wilmon Timberlands, Inc.

He finished Auburn University in 1948 and was a member of the first graduating class of forest management in the School of

Forestry. On looking at the certificates on his office wall, you can tell quickly that his forestry expertise is long lived, his registered forester number is 74.

Since his graduation in 1948, he has continued to support not only his alma mater, but other forestry training schools in the state. He is a past member of the Forestry Advisory Board of Patrick Henry State Junior College, past president of the Auburn Forestry Alumni Association, past vice-president of the Auburn Forestry Foundation, and has been active in Auburn's Department of Forestry Advisory Committee and the

Consulting Committee on Forestry Research at Auburn.

On the national level, Stewart has served on congressional committees promoting forestry, including the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Committee Hearing on the Bankhead Wilderness, and has served the Society of American Foresters on the South-eastern level, as well as serving as chairman and secretary of the Alabama Chapter of SAF.

In the 1960's, Stewart was chairman of the Alabama Forest Products Association Study Committee of State Division of Forestry, and was one of the instrumental figures in supporting legislation which removed the Division of Forestry from the Department of Conservation and made it into a state agency—the Alabama Forestry Commission. During his years of practicing forestry in Alabama, he has seen three state foresters including Toler, Stauffer and Moody.

In addition, he has made contributions to forestry in Alabama through the Alabama Forestry Association, the Alabama Loggers Committee, the Alabama Forest Products Association, State Board of Registration for Foresters, the Forest Farmer's Association, and the Forest Industries Committee.

The veteran forester has received the Governor's Wildlife Conservationist Award, the Governor's Forestry Conservationist Award, the Farm-City Committee of Alabama Award in recognition of Agricultural Excellence in Forestry, and the Monongahela Forest Leadership Award from the First Congressional District of Alabama.

But all of Frank Stewart's time and energy has not gone into the promotion of his profession. His contributions to his community can not only be seen today, but will be evident in many years to come.

He has served as mayor and councilman of the City of Vredenburgh, is a past member of the Monroe County Pensions and Security Board, the Monroe County Democratic Executive Committee, the Board of Directors of the Camden National Bank, and is a past and charter member of the Wilcox Academy Board of Directors.

Organized fire protection may have been long in coming for Wilcox County had it not been for Stewart's serving as chairman of the Wilcox County Committee for Adequate Rural and Community Fire Protection. He also served as president of the Camden Exchange Club and is former vice-chairman of that organization's Boy Scout Fund Raising Committee.

Frank Stewart has spent his life working to promote the forest industry in Alabama, as well as striving to assist his community in meeting the needs of its residents. ♣



Frank Stewart

Don't leave home without 'em

# Tools of the Trade for FIRE CONTROL

by STEVE WEAVER, Chief, Equipment and Safety



**A**T ONE TIME HAND TOOLS WERE THE only equipment available for fire-fighting as the variety of motorized equipment was not available. Hand tools are still the only way to attack wildfire in many areas.

The most popular hand tools used today are the long-handled, round-pointed shovel, council rake (fire rake), fire swatter, single bit ax, backpack pump, and the drip torch (sometimes referred to as the backfire torch).

The long-handled round-pointed shovel is a very effective fire tool. It can be used to dig, to swat, to throw dirt, to scrape the fire line clean, and to some extent to cut vines and other light material.

A council rake or fire rake is a highly efficient tool used for trenching work in light brush, duff, and small roots, and it can be used for cutting, digging, or raking. It is the preferred tool for mop up work and can be used to rake embers away from the fire edge, to shovel soil and sand onto stumps and logs,

to scrape fire off standing snags and stumps, to pull hot logs and tops from the fire edge, and to cut small trees or brush.

Fire swatters or flaps are used mainly in grass, needles, or light ground fuels. This tool is laid on the fire edge and moved progressively along. Hand swatting should be avoided because it tends to spread the fire and can be very tiring to the user. The fire swatter is made of vulcanized belting stock that is 12 x 15 inches and 1/4-inch thick. The belting is attached with a T-iron to a wooden handle at least 60 inches long.

The single bit ax can be used to knock stumps, logs, and heavy fuels apart. A 36-inch handle is usually preferred.

Backpack pumps have many uses. They are used in adjunct to other hand tools to stop the spread of fire in lighter fuels, to cool down hot spots, to strengthen the line, and to stop spot fires. The user should make every drop of water count by holding the nozzle end steady and in place with one hand and pumping with the other hand. In this way the

stream can be pointed accurately at the fire base. Apply the water as a spray in a sweeping motion. A finger can be placed over the nozzle spray jet to help regulate the spray pattern.

A drip torch is efficient, safe, and simple to operate. It is designed for firing semi-dry fuels that slowly ignite. For the drip torch to work effectively the fuel mixture is very important. Mix three gallons of diesel fuel to two gallons of gasoline to make a five gallon mixture. If kerosene is used, mix one quart of motor oil, three gallons of kerosene and two gallons of gasoline. **NEVER USE UNDILUTED GASOLINE!** When the burning oil is dripped along the line, the operation can proceed without waiting for the fuel to ignite. Drip torches are used mainly for backfiring.

With a little practice, these simple fire tools can be used as the first line of controlling a wildfire while the fire is still small.

♦

*A Cure or a Problem?*

# PRESCRIBED BURNING FOR SITE PREPARATION

by HUGH E. MOBLEY, Chief, Fire Control



**T**HE USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE IS “BIG business” in managing the pine stands of Alabama. Over 15,000 burn permits are issued yearly by the Alabama Forestry Commission for forestry and wildlife purposes. Another 10,000 is issued for agriculture and other miscellaneous reasons.

More permits are issued for site preparation than any other purpose. And—it is needed. For good survival and quick growth start, forest trees need the area properly prepared the same as with any other crop. To more properly utilize the land, close to 100% survival is needed. Tracts can also be planted

at more manageable stocking, rather than planting an excessive number to begin with to offset poor survival and risking having a stand too thick in some areas or still too thin in others. Site preparation and good planting techniques are the key to a fully stocked and fast growing stand.

This type of open burning, however, causes the greatest problem because of the large amounts of *smoke* produced. On most sites being prepared for planting, large amounts of debris from the logging of the mature timber is left. In addition, there is the ingrowth of shrubs and grasses, and the

natural accumulation of needles, limbs, and other debris resulting in large amounts of fuel. There is also a considerable amount of green material included. Moisture content will also be higher. All of these factors result in more smoke being produced.

Compounding the problem is the fact that the large material generally has to be piled in order to get it to burn. This process results in dirt being included and compaction of the material. The drying process is thus drastically reduced due to dirt, restricted circulation of air through the pile and less surface exposed to the drying rays of the sun. Also, less



oxygen is available for the combustion process. Less oxygen and high moisture in a smoldering fire produces much more smoke than a hot, flaming fire.

---

### Burning at Night

Nighttime is the worst! At night, vertical movement of the atmosphere is drastically reduced due to more stable conditions. The fire will also burn less intensely due to less wind, lower temperatures and higher relative humidities. The smoke from such slow-burning, smoldering fires will not be lifted. Instead, it will flow along the ground *down-drainage* due to more rapid cooling at the surface of the ground.

Neither does this smoke get dispersed. Instead, it will concentrate in the drainages and low areas.

---

### Windrow Burning

Piling the debris in large windrows also makes the smoke problem worse. Most of the fuel in windrows will be consumed with a slow-burning, smoldering fire. Smoldering fires produce much more smoke even though the amount of fuel consumed may be the same or less. It generally takes days before all the material is consumed. Consequently, a large amount of smoke is produced at night as well as day. Weather conditions also change and atmospheric conditions can become worse, keeping more of the smoke on the ground instead of allowing it to be dispersed into the atmosphere.

Windrow burning results in the following:

- *More residual smoke being produced*
- *It's produced for a longer period*
- *It's produced at night and not lifted into the atmosphere*
- *Changing atmospheric conditions can carry smoke in any direction*
- *All the debris will not be consumed*
- *The soil is exposed to drying and erosion*
- *Windrows are a barrier to wildlife and fire suppression equipment*
- *Bigger windrows cause bigger problems*

---

### Smoke Can Be Managed

Even though logging debris produces large amounts of smoke, it can be managed so that the amount produced is less and the smoke that is produced is dispersed without impacting some area sensitive to smoke.

Windrows produce the most smoke and for the longest period of time. This is also a poor technique for other reasons as already discussed. Leave the debris scattered if it will burn. If it has to be piled to burn, use

small, round piles. The debris is moved less resulting in less dirt; compaction is not as bad; and a larger percent of the material is exposed to the sun for more rapid drying.

If the debris is piled during dry weather, a root rake is used instead of a blade, and the operator is careful, very little dirt will get into the piles. If the piles are then allowed a reasonable time to dry out, all the debris will be consumed and planting machines can plant right through the area where the pile was located. No area is lost to production. Much less smoke is produced in the daytime or at night. In fact, it is possible to burn up small piles completely by dark with no smoldering smoke produced that will stay on the ground.

Complete burn-out can be accomplished even quicker if a bulldozer is used during the burning to "bump" the piles pushing the unburned material into the fire. This is important because the vast majority of problems caused by smoke have been in low areas on highways where smoke produced at night had concentrated. This type incident can result in poor visibility for drivers and can cause serious injuries or even death.

Other smoke problems can be caused by *burning large blocks producing high concentrations of smoke that will travel long distances; burning adjacent to or very close to smoke sensitive areas, especially airports and highways; and burning during stable conditions.*

---

### Atmospheric Stability

Stable atmospheric conditions will tend to keep the smoke on the ground whereas unstable conditions will help to lift smoke and disperse it into the atmosphere. The forecast prepared every morning by the Weather Service for the Forestry Commission includes three items that are helpful in determining how smoke will be dispersed. They are *mixing height, transport winds and stagnation index.*

*Mixing height* is the maximum height that vertical mixing will take place in the atmosphere. *Transport wind* is an average of the windspeed and direction from the surface to the mixing height. It indicates how fast your smoke will be moved out of the area and in what direction. *Stagnation index* is an indicator of the stability of the atmosphere and how your smoke will be dispersed. It can be used by itself, but it is better to consider all three. This information is available every morning (usually by 7:30 a.m.) at each of our District Offices.

In using our forecasts, however, remember that it is a forecast for conditions during the hottest part of the day. This is the time that fires will burn most intensely and is used by

us primarily for fire control purposes. The three smoke dispersion factors also fluctuate greatly during the 24-hour period. Conditions are always better during the middle of the day for dispersion of smoke. More intense burning will occur producing less smoke, yet will dry out and consume more of the debris. However, be sure you have a wide, clear strip around the area and enough equipment and manpower to control your fire. Unstable conditions will make your fire burn hotter helping to eliminate more of the debris, but hotter fires are more difficult to control.

Indications of unstable conditions are the following:

- *Good visibility*
- *Dust devils*
- *Gusty wind*
- *Smoke rising high into atmosphere*
- *Little or no clouds*
- *Clouds that are present are cumulus type*

---

### Checklist to Eliminate Smoke Problems

When planning your outdoor burn, use the following checklist:

1. *Utilize all the material you can—give it away for firewood*
2. *Leave debris scattered if it will burn*
3. *Use small, round piles*
4. *Pile when dry and shake out dirt*
5. *Give adequate time to dry out*
6. *Check both downwind and down-drainage for areas sensitive to smoke*
7. *Secure latest weather forecast*
8. *Don't burn during night or on stable days*
9. *Don't burn near highways or airports*
10. *Burn during dry period*
11. *Start burning as early as possible in the morning*
12. *Burn in small blocks*
13. *Use a "screening system"*
14. *Seek expert advice*

The personnel of the Forestry Commission use a "screening system" to determine if they may have a smoke problem and change their written prescription to eliminate the possible problem. The prescription is made during the planning phase before the burning is done. These two items are required of our people. They are also carefully screened and have proven their capabilities through experience and training before they are certified to make written prescriptions or conduct prescribed burns. These people are available to assist you in planning your burn so no smoke problem occurs.

Yes, site preparation burning is a cure, but it also can become a big problem if the smoke is not managed. ♣

# THE NURSERY PROGRAM

by BILL PADGETT, Chief, Tree Improvement

**T**HE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION, in exercising its responsibility to provide quality planting stock to the landowners, public and private, of Alabama, operates three forest tree nurseries. They are E. A. Hauss, Atmore, Alabama; John R. Miller Nursery, Autaugaville, Alabama; and Jake Stauffer Nursery, Opelika, Alabama.

The planned production for the 1988-1989 planting season will be approximately 90,000,000 seedlings. Production will vary from year to year according to the amount of land that is rotated from seedling production to cover crops. This rotation is needed in order to improve the organic matter content of the soil either through the direct application of organic matter or through the growing of cover crops. The organic matter of soil must remain at a high level to improve the soil and subsequently enhance the quality of the seedlings.

The demand for seedlings remains at a high level. Much of the increase in demand is attributed to support programs such as the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), Alabama Resource Conservation Program (ARCP), Forest Incentive Program (FIP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The seventh sign-up for CRP will be July 18-August 5, 1988. The previous 6 sign-ups for CRP have enrolled approximately 500,000 acres with 223,000 acres to trees. The increase in demand for seedlings places a burden on the soil and this, in turn, requires the utmost in management to keep the seedling quality at a high level.

Loblolly pine seedlings account for approximately 80% of the annual seedling production of the Alabama Forestry Commission's nurseries. The demand for slash pine has been rather static for the last few years. This has probably been because many of the slash pine sites have been planted to other species. Longleaf pine shows a steady increase in demand and this is attributed to landowners having better success in planting this species.

Virginia pine seedlings for Christmas trees remains at a steady rate. The Virginia



pine seedlings are from seed produced in the Alabama Forestry Commission's seed orchard developed for Christmas tree production.

## Genetically Improved Seed

The Alabama Forestry Commission produces improved loblolly, slash and Virginia pine seedlings from seed produced in its seed orchards. The Alabama Forestry Commission has developed a 40-acre longleaf pine seed orchard that should be in production within a few years. However, the Alabama Forestry Commission's longleaf pine seedlings are currently grown from seed collected "in the wild" from select longleaf pine stands.

The Alabama Forestry Commission

belongs to the North Carolina State University Tree Improvement Cooperative which makes it convenient to check on seed sources from other cooperative members when seed is purchased to meet seedling production.

Forest tree seed management is paramount in the Alabama Forestry Commission Nursery Program. *Good seed is the first step towards producing a quality seedling demanded by the landowners.* Each year the seed to be planted for the current seedling crop is tested at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Tree Seed Laboratory. This testing is necessary in that it provides the nursery manager with the needed information on seed germination and subsequently leads to the desired amount of seed being stratified for planting and followed by associated activities.

## Soil Fumigation

The land that is going into seedling production each year is fumigated with **METHYL BROMIDE**. Most of this fumigation is now done by contract rather than using the nursery staff which has proven to be cost-effective. SAFETY has been one of the primary reasons for using contractual services since **METHYL BROMIDE** is highly toxic to warm-blooded animals. Fumigation is important for two primary reasons:

1. *Aids in controlling some of the weeds that occur in the seedbeds.*
2. *Reduces the incidence of soil-borne fungi and plant parasitic nematodes.*

## Refrigeration of Seedlings

The Alabama Forestry Commission purchased its first refrigerated van in Fiscal Year 1986-87. This was a major step in the delivery of seedlings from the nursery to the landowner. Also, the Alabama Forestry Commission has placed a satellite seedling cooler at the district offices in Birmingham, Florence, Ozark and Tuscaloosa. These

coolers were so placed as to further enhance the delivery of seedlings to the landowner under refrigerated conditions.

**Root System Protection**

The use of **Viterra\*** was adopted by the Alabama Forestry Commission during the 1987-88 planting season. The material is mixed with water and subsequently sprayed directly onto the seedling root system for protection. This should keep the roots in a moist condition and will prevent root "dry out" during storage and shipping. Plans are to continue this practice in the nursery operations which is supported by the majority of the landowners receiving seedlings so protected.

**Computers in Nurseries**

Computers continue to be an excellent tool in the Alabama Forestry Commission nursery operations. Their use in budget development and control, seedling inventories, and equipment maintenance reporting has improved overall nursery administrative operations. Plans are to expand computer usage in future years through updating the equipment and training of nurseries' staff.

**Cooperative Program**

The Alabama Forestry Commission is a member of the Auburn University Forest Nursery Cooperative along with a number of Southeastern states, industry and the USDA-Forest Service. The Cooperative is instrumental in carrying out studies in soil management, herbicides, irrigation, seedling physiology and disease control. The Cooperative is instrumental in sponsoring meetings among nurserymen where nursery operations and management can be discussed.

**Procedure to Order Seedlings**

The Alabama Forestry Commission began taking seedling orders for the 1988-89 planting season on June 1, 1988. It will be necessary for the landowner to submit his seedling order *plus payment* to the Alabama Forestry Commission in order to receive seedlings from the Alabama Forestry Commission nurseries. The seedlings will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis until the supply is exhausted.

The seedling order form can be obtained from any Alabama Forestry Commission office or offices of the Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation

Service. The 1988-89 Alabama Forestry Commission seedling prices are as follows:

SPECIES	PER 1000	PER 500
Pines:		
Loblolly—Improved	\$27.50	\$18.00
Slash—Improved	\$27.50	\$18.00
Longleaf	\$32.50	\$21.00
Virginia (Christmas Tree)	\$42.50	\$28.00
Lespedeza	\$27.50	\$18.00

A transportation charge of \$2 per thousand seedlings will be due on orders that are picked up from the nursery by an Alabama Forestry Commission county ranger or on orders that are picked up from an Alabama Forestry Commission District Headquarter's cooler.

*\* The mention of trade names does not imply endorsement or recommendation by the Alabama Forestry Commission.*



# The Conservation Reserve

by DAVID A. HOGE, Productivity Forester

SEVERAL ARTICLES DESCRIBING the Conservation Reserve Program have appeared in previous issues of this magazine. Briefly summarizing these, the Conservation Reserve Program is a component of the Farm Bill signed into law in December 1985 by President Reagan. The objectives of the program are to *reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, curb production of surplus commodities and provide income support for the nation's farmers.*

Only farmers owning highly erodible cropland of certain capability classes, cropped for at least two years during the period of 1981-85 are allowed to enroll in the program. Farmers wishing to enroll in the program must bid their land to the Federal Government. The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture determines the maximum bid the Federal Government is willing to accept for eligible land. In Alabama, the maximum has been set by the Secretary at \$45 per acre. Local County Committees of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) may set county rates lower than this depending on the average agricultural rental rate for that county.

Once enrolled in the program, the participating landowner will receive this amount in the form of an annual payment made each year during a ten-year contract period. In return for this annual payment, the participant must establish and maintain permanent cover on accepted lands. In addition to the annual payment, the Federal Government will also provide cost-share assistance for permanent cover establishment at a rate of up to 50 percent of the cost. Cover practices approved for cost-share include trees, native grasses and legumes, introduced grasses and legumes, and field windbreaks. The creation of permanent wildlife habitat is also encouraged within the program.

Nationally, the goal of the program was to retire 45 million acres of highly erodible cropland from production. Of this total, 12.5 percent was to be planted to trees. In the six signups to date, nearly 27.5 million total

acres have been offered, with 2 million acres offered for tree planting. The amount offered to trees represents just slightly more than seven percent, well below the national goal.

In Alabama, the percentages are much different. Approximately 585,000 acres have been offered by Alabama landowners, with nearly 490,000 acres being accepted. Of this 490,000 acres, about 246,560 acres are being planted to trees. This represents a tree-to-grass ratio of 1 to 1; in other words, 50 percent of the Conservation Reserve Program in Alabama is going to trees! Accepted acres to trees by signup is shown in **TABLE I**.

However, expectations for the program in Alabama are not being realized. In our state some 1.4 million acres have been identified as being highly erodible. It was hoped that much of this highly erodible land would be enrolled in the program. If remaining signups are similar to those having taken place, only 800,000 acres will have been enrolled in the

**TABLE I**

**ACRES TO TREES THROUGH THE FIRST SIX SIGNUPS FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IN ALABAMA**

Signup	Offered Tree Acres	Accepted Tree Acres
1	35,919.8	20,830.5
2	37,972.6	27,739.6
3	46,254.3	38,280.8
4	83,307.2	76,823.3
5	30,496.9	29,638.0
6	57,270.9	53,247.9

program with 400,000 acres being planted to trees.

Within Alabama, why isn't more land

**TABLE II**

**ROW CROPS VS. PINE ON MARGINAL LAND**

ITEM	ROW CROPS	PINE
1. Cash flow	Annual	Periodic
2. Income tax treatment	Ordinary income	Long term capital gains, Amortization and investment credit on reforestation costs
3. Supply/demand/price outlook	Unfavorable	Favorable
4. Market	Usually must sell at current price, relatively perishable product	Multiple products, can hold and sell in good market
5. Returns from land	Low, may be negative	Good
6. Soil conservation	Poor	Good
7. Drought	High risk	Low risk, once established
8. Management	Intensive/active	Extensive/passive
9. Investment length	One year	Usually longer than 15 years

# Progam

being enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program? With oversupply and depressed prices threatening returns from many agricultural commodities, growing pine trees is frequently a better financial alternative than growing row crops, particularly on marginal land. **TABLE II** illustrates this quite well. For further comparison, it is worthwhile to evaluate, on an after-tax basis, the expected annual return derived from specific row crops as opposed to the equal annual equivalent return from planted loblolly pine. Such comparisons should be done by soil series. **TABLES III-V** compare the estimated after-tax return for a given soil series in southern Georgia for corn, soybeans, and loblolly pine. Landowners desiring such information concerning their own land in Alabama are urged to contact their county Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or Extension office.

It is obvious from the above comparisons that planting pine tree seedlings within the

**TABLE III**

**Estimation of After-Tax Return For Corn (Dollars/Acre)**

- Fuquay (0-5) Soil Series
- Yield: 80 bu. per acre
- Production costs for South Georgia
- Price: \$3.30 per bu.

Revenue (80 bu. x \$3.30)	\$264.00		
Production Costs:			
<b>Variable Costs</b>		<b>Fixed Costs</b>	
Seed	12.00	Machinery-Preharvest	18.00
Lime	7.00	Machinery-Harvest	25.00
Fertilizer	45.10	General Overhead	6.30
Herbicide and Pesticide	15.10	Management	<u>6.30</u>
Machinery-Preharvest	18.10	Total Fixed Costs	55.60
Machinery-Harvest	13.90	Total Production Costs	<u>188.80</u>
Labor	15.00	Gross Income Per Acre	\$ 75.20
Interest on Operating Capital (12%)	<u>7.00</u>	Income Tax (25% Marginal Rate)	<u>18.80</u>
Total Variable Costs	133.20	Net Income or After-Tax Return Per Acre	\$ 56.40

**TABLE IV**

**Estimated After-Tax Return for Soybeans (Dollars/Acre)**

- Fuquay (0-5) Soil Series
- Yield: 30 bu. per acre
- Production costs for South Georgia
- Price: \$6.75 per bu.

Revenue (30 bu. x \$6.75)	\$202.50		
Production Costs:			
<b>Variable Costs</b>		<b>Fixed Costs</b>	
Seed	12.00	Machinery-Preharvest	15.00
Lime	9.00	Machinery-Harvest	18.00
Fertilizer	22.00	General Overhead	6.10
Herbicides	20.00	Management	<u>6.10</u>
Insect Control	21.00	Total Fixed Costs	45.20
Machinery-Preharvest	11.50	Total Production Costs	<u>168.00</u>
Machinery-Harvest	7.80	Gross Income Per Acre	\$ 34.50
Labor	12.50	Income Tax (25% Marginal Rate)	8.62
Interest on Operating Capital (12%)	<u>7.00</u>	Net Income or After-Tax Return Per Acre	\$ 25.88
Total Variable Costs	122.80		

TABLE V

## Estimated Cash Flows from a Loblolly Pine Plantation Investment (Dollars/Acre)

- Fuquay (0-5) Soil Series
- Site Index: 83 (50 year basis)/62 (25 year basis)
- Yield (20 years): 29.70 cords pulpwood  
13.70 cords chip-n-saw
- Price Region 3 (See Appendix)

Year	Item	Before Tax Cash Flow	Income Tax Effect	After Tax Cash Flow	Cumulative Total Cash Flow
0	Planting Cost	\$-42.00		\$-42.00	\$-42.00
0	10% Investment Tax Credit		\$4.20	4.20	-37.80
0	Amortization Tax Option		0.75	0.75	-37.05
1	Management Cost	- 1.56	0.39	- 1.17	-38.22
1	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-36.43
2	Management Cost	- 1.62	0.41	- 1.21	-37.93
2	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-36.43
3	Management Cost	- 1.69	0.42	- 1.27	-37.70
3	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-36.20
4	Management Cost	- 1.75	0.44	- 1.31	-37.51
4	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-36.01
5	Management Cost	- 1.82	0.46	- 1.36	-37.37
5	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-35.87
6	Management Cost	- 1.90	0.48	- 1.42	-37.29
6	Amortization Tax Option		1.50	1.50	-35.79
7	Management Cost	- 1.97	0.49	- 1.48	-37.27
7	Amortization Tax Option		0.75	0.75	-36.52
8	Management Cost	- 2.05	0.51	- 1.54	-38.06
9	Management Cost	- 2.13	0.53	- 1.60	-39.66
10	Management Cost	- 2.22	0.56	- 1.66	-41.32
11	Management Cost	- 2.31	0.58	- 1.73	-43.05
12	Management Cost	- 2.40	0.60	- 1.80	-44.85
13	Management Cost	- 2.50	0.63	- 1.87	-46.72
14	Management Cost	- 2.60	0.65	- 1.95	-48.67
15	Management Cost	- 2.70	0.68	- 2.02	-50.69
16	Management Cost	- 2.81	0.70	- 2.11	-52.80
17	Management Cost	- 2.92	0.73	- 2.19	-54.99
18	Management Cost	- 3.04	0.76	- 2.28	-57.27
19	Management Cost	- 3.16	0.79	- 2.37	-59.64
20	Management Cost	- 3.29	0.82	- 2.47	-62.11
20	Final Harvest-Pulpwood	2804.30	-280.43	-2523.87	2461.76
20	Final Harvest-Chip-N-Saw	2319.50	-231.95	-2087.55	4549.31

Equal Annual Equivalent Return (9% After-Tax Interest Rate) = \$85.30

Conservation Reserve Program is an attractive investment. Gross cost for establishing pine seedlings on Conservation Reserve Program lands is approximately \$75 per acre, with the average cost-share being \$40 per acre. Considering the annual rental payment as part of the first year income, revenue derived from the program more than covers the cost of establishing pine tree seedlings that first year. In addition, upon completion of the ten-year contract period, a commercially valuable timber stand is present. This stand may add anywhere from \$150-200 to the land value. Provided the stand is properly cared for, timber harvests and monetary returns may occur as early as the fifteenth year following planting. Studies conducted by Auburn University and the USDA-Soil Conservation Service show that planting trees provides a much higher benefit-to-cost ratio than either pasture or hayland establishment on Conservation Reserve Program lands (see **TABLE VI**). Landowners who are seeking to maximize returns should choose tree planting as their alternative.

Beyond the financial benefits mentioned above, additional benefits accrued by participation in the Conservation Reserve Program include the following:

- *Soil erosion reduction* on site and less sedimentation off site. Reducing soil erosion on site saves money for the landowner by ensuring sustained productivity. Off site benefits include reducing the costs of cleaning up rivers and streams clogged by sediment, herbicides, and fertilizers from agricultural land.
- *Increased wildlife habitat* as a result of trees and grass planted under the program.
- *An opportunity for added income* for landowners through the leasing of land for hunting, fishing, or other recreational purposes.
- *Enhanced aesthetic value of lands.*

The 1985 Farm Bill requires all farmers to have an approved conservation plan for their property by 1990. Trees planted under the Conservation Reserve Program will not only meet compliance requirements of the Farm Bill, but will also present an attractive investment. Landowners will have another opportunity to enroll their eligible land in the program. The seventh signup is scheduled for July 18 through August 5. Interested landowners can sign up during this period at their county ASCS office. Landowners who have previously attempted to enroll in the program are urged to resubmit their eligible land. Eligibility requirements have been relaxed to encourage greater participation in the program.

**TABLE VI**

**ECONOMIC COMPARISONS OF ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES UNDER THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

ENTERPRISE	BENEFIT COST RATIO*	ANNUAL EQUIVALENT VALUE**	PRESENT NET VALUE ***
Tree Planting	\$8.02:1	39.22	418
Pastureland	1.21:1	24.03	257
Hayland	1.28:1	32.83	351

\**BENEFIT: COST RATIO* is often used as a measure of the value of government programs. It is a ratio of the revenues produced by an enterprise to the costs associated with the enterprise.

\*\**ANNUAL EQUIVALENT VALUE* is based on the present net value. The annual equivalent value is determined by spreading the net value over the entire investment period in even annual payments like an annuity. It provides a convenient way of comparing long-term enterprises with short-term investments.

\*\*\**PRESENT NET VALUE* is generally accepted as the best method of evaluating long-term investments such as forestry. It is defined as the difference between the present value of all future incomes and the present value of all costs, at a given discount rate.



# LANDO

LEGISLATIVE  
ALERT



## NATIONAL

by LISE AANGEENBURG, Legislative Liaison, National Association of State Foresters

**I**T'S AN ELECTION YEAR ON CAPITOL HILL. Members seem more interested, show up for more votes, attend more hearings, and make more time to see their constituents. They may even pass an appropriations bill before the September 30 deadline, or at least thirteen separate bills as opposed to the overwhelming omnibus continuing resolution.

The Administration, eager to make a last effort to control the budget, released a proposed budget in January, which cut off many programs to the states. Forestry programs, such as *State and Private management and utilization programs, the Forestry Incentives Program, the Agricultural Conservation Program, and Rural Community Fire Protection* were eliminated in the Fiscal Year 1989 proposal. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and other conservation and forestry groups have been working hard to continue these cooperative state/federal programs.

Hearings on funding for these programs began in late February and wound up in the Senate in early May. The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which hold jurisdiction over forestry programs, began marking-up their bills in May and June. The Senate will begin its mark-up process shortly after the House has completed action. If both Houses of Congress manage to stay on schedule, separate appropriations bills will pass out of conference some time in late summer. The bills will have to move quickly this year because Congress is eager to adjourn in October to allow legislators up for reelection to return home and campaign before the November elections.

### Alabama Delegation Active

Alabama congressional representatives

continue to actively support forestry legislation. On the House side, several Alabama delegates (**Callahan, Beville, Dickinson, Erdreich, Flippo, Harris, and Nichols**) have become members of the recently established Forestry 2000 Task Force. These members have been strong supporters of efforts to maintain traditional conservation and forestry programs. As a member of the Forests, Family Farms and Energy Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, **Congressman Harris** has repeatedly questioned Administration witnesses regarding the fate of State and Private Forestry programs during subcommittee hearings. The Alabama delegation has also signed on to a letter encouraging **Sid Yates** (IL), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, to maintain last year's (FY88) levels for forestry programs and provide full funding for the national marketing initiative.

Other traditional forestry programs, such as *Forestry Incentives Program and Agricultural Conservation Program*, can expect to be held at last year's levels. Congressional staff has emphasized over and over that the budget outlook is restricted and most forestry programs will be seeing a "hold the line" level.

### Conservation Reserve Program

The sixth signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was a success for tree planting, especially in Alabama, where tree acres made up over 60% of the signup! The tree planting changes, issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, provided increased incentives for tree enrollment in the reserve program. The seventh signup, which we hope will continue this high level of tree acres is set for July 18 through August 9.

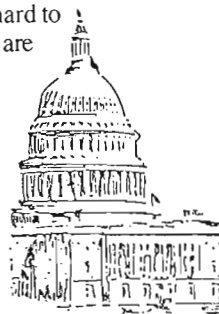
### Keep up the good work, Alabama!

In late March, **Alabama Senator Howell**

**Heflin** took part in an oversight hearing held by the Forestry Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee on the implementation of this important farm program. The NASF and other forestry groups testified in favor of providing further incentives for tree planting under the reserve. While the program is working well and tree planting has increased, there are additional actions the Federal Government can take to help the landowner establish trees. Suggestions included 1) a one time bonus for tree planting, similar to the bonus offered for corn in 1987; 2) increasing the number of cost-share years to 15 for tree planting only; and 3) allowing bottomland hardwood planting in wetland areas under the CRP. Other suggestions, such as increasing the total allowable acres in the CRP from 45 million to 65 million acres, were presented at the hearing by **Senator Nunn** (GA) who has introduced a bill, S. 1521, to expand the CRP, increase tree planting, and address regional water quality problems.

### Wetlands, Water Quality, and Wildlife

Wetlands and water quality issues will dominate natural resource issues in the next session of Congress. Several bills have already been introduced and environmental groups are grooming legislators for amendments to the Clean Water Act and comprehensive wetlands legislation. Forestry groups are working hard to insure that forest practices are still considered allowable and compatible uses in wetlands areas. While most agree that policy needs to be formulated to address and protect our wetlands resource, forestry can play a positive role.





# WINNERS

## STATE



by FRANK SEGO, Legislative Liaison, Alabama Forestry Commission

**T**HIS COLUMN WAS WRITTEN in the early morning hours following one of the most disappointing legislative sessions in the memory of this writer.

By the time you read this, a special session will have been called to rectify the omissions of the regular session. It's hard to remember so many casualties being left in the wake of a session as there were in the spring of 1988.

It's not what this legislature did or did not do for the state's forestry program, but what it failed to do for most of the people of Alabama thus forcing the call of another session. Since this is a magazine whose primary function is to enlighten forest landowners and other forest interests, we will dwell on the fate of forestry legislation as introduced in this disastrous session.

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### Cigarette Bill Burns Out

First, and foremost, was a bill to aid volunteer fire departments by increasing the tax on a pack of cigarettes. Here was an idea conceived by **House Speaker Jimmy Clark** who said last August he wanted to do something for the volunteer fire departments. **Representative Richard Laird** of Roanoke was designated as the bill's sponsor.

HB 341 was introduced by **Representative Laird** at the beginning of the session with 58 co-sponsors. On April 9-10, in a rare Saturday-Sunday session, the House passed it out as substituted and amended, to satisfy the tobacco lobby, but it omitted any funds for the Forestry Commission to administer the program. On April 26, the bill was again substituted, placing the Forestry Commission back in, while giving the fire departments a better break in the funding. It passed the Senate on that date.

A conference committee was appointed to work out the differences in the bill after it went back to the House for concurrence. On

the 30th and final legislative day an agreement was reached by the six conferees. However, one of them, **Representative James Buskey** of Mobile, had his name withdrawn and fueled opposition for the bill.

After more than an hour of discussion, during which cloture was invoked, the bill passed the House and went back to the Senate for final disposition with only 90 minutes left in the session. A last ditch effort by **Senators Lowell Barron** of Fyffe and **Perry Hand** of Gulf Shores to bring the bill up for a Senate vote failed and the issue was dead for the regular session.

Not enough can be said or written to praise hundreds of loyal volunteer fire fighters who made their presence felt each time they came to the State House to lobby their legislators on the bill. It was a united effort and their perseverance almost paid off. Their tenacious legislative leader, **Nelson "Bud" Watts** of Stillwaters, summed it up in three words, "We'll be back!"

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### Acreage Assessment Fails

The state's forestry program suffered another loss as the proposed statewide acreage assessment bills (SB 309 & SB 310) died on the House Special Order Calendar as the clock ran out.

Acreage assessment was sought to bring all counties in line with the 10 cents per acre finance charge now being collected in over 30 counties. Matching funds of \$1.60 are currently provided by the Forestry Commission for every dollar collected in each county.

SB 309 would have required a constitutional amendment to allow forest landowners to vote for the assessment.

SB 310 set forth the procedures for holding the referendum and levying the assessment for forest fire protection.

**Senator Ann Bedsole** of Mobile sponsored both bills.

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### Other Forestry Bills

**Representative Allen Layson** of Reform sponsored another forestry measure that died on the House Calendar. HB 645 would have increased the severance tax on forest products by 25% for the purpose of carrying out the statewide forestry program as provided by law.

A bill designed to streamline the reporting and record keeping of forest products also died on the House Special Order Calendar after passing the Senate. The bill would have simplified the method of maintaining records of purchases of unmanufactured or semi-manufactured forest products.

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### Many Key Measures Die

Other measures that failed to pass the regular session included:

- A five percent guaranteed pay raise for Alabama's 30,000 state employees, and a promised two percent raise if the money was available.
- A bill that would strengthen Alabama's anti-litter law.
- Bills that would have provided money for 34 special projects and state agencies.
- A constitutional amendment to increase the maximum state individual and corporate income tax from 5 percent to 5.5 percent.
- A \$3.4 billion dollar education budget and a \$658 million budget to operate State Government for Fiscal Year 1988-89. This was the first time in 17 years that the legislature adjourned without adopting either of the State budgets.

A pair of local forestry bills did make it successfully. The legislature gave approval to an increase from five to ten cents per acre on forest lands in Perry and Bibb counties. ♠

# FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION SOFTWOOD TIMBER LOANS

provided by FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

**S**OFTWOOD TIMBER LOANS (ST LOANS), a servicing action, are available to Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) borrowers who have a distressed Farmer Program (FP) loan(s) with 50 or more acres of marginal land. The basic objectives of the FmHA in reamortizing and deferring payments of distressed FP loans (ST loans) to financially distressed farmers are to develop a positive cashflow to assist eligible FmHA borrowers to improve their financial condition, to repay their outstanding FmHA debts in an orderly manner, to carry on a feasible farming operation, and to take marginal land, including highly erodible land, out of the production of agricultural commodities other than for the production of softwood timber.

A *distressed FP loan* is one delinquent or in financial distress which exists because a

borrower cannot project a positive cashflow by using all of FmHA servicing options such as rescheduling, reamortizing or deferral at the maximum term.

*Marginal land* is land that is determined suitable for softwood timber production by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) that was previously (within the last five years) used for production of agricultural commodities or pasture. This could include, but is not limited to, highly erodible land as defined or classified by the SCS. It does *not* include wetlands.

A *positive cashflow* must indicate that all the anticipated cash farm and non-farm income equals or exceeds all the anticipated cash outflows for the planned period. A positive cashflow will pay all operating expenses, all taxes, all open and secured accounts and provide a five percent reserve

above the amount due and payable. It must provide an average standard of living for the family.

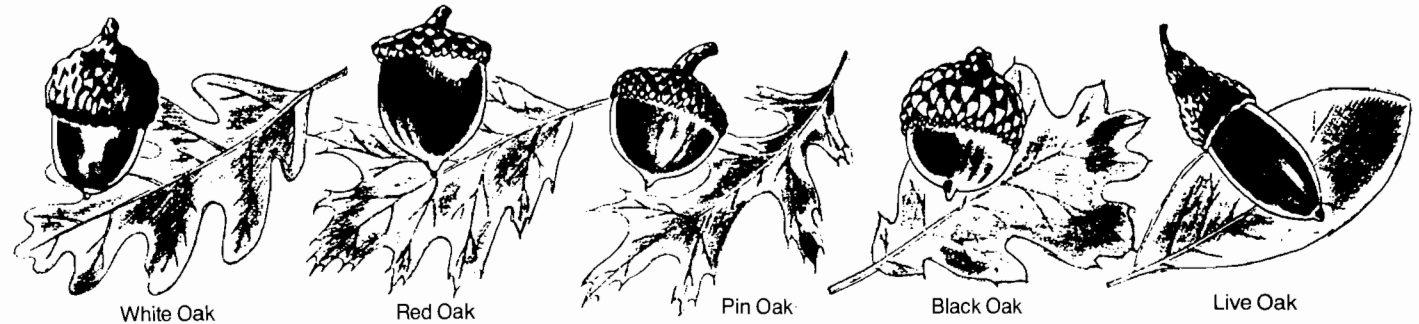
To be eligible, a borrower must meet the following requirements:

1. Have the debt repayment ability and reliability, managerial ability and industry to carry out the operation.
2. Be willing to place not less than 50 acres of marginal land in ST production. Such land must not have any liens against it other than a lien for ST loans to secure such reamortized FP loans. (It cannot secure other FmHA loans).
3. Have properly maintained chattel and real estate security and properly accounted for the sale of security, including crops and livestock.
4. Be an FP borrower who owns 50 acres or more of marginal land as determined by SCS.
5. Have sufficient training or farming experience to assure reasonable success.
6. Have one or more distressed FP loans.
7. Not have a total indebtedness of ST loan(s) that will exceed \$1,000 per acre for marginal land at loan closing.
8. Be unable to obtain sufficient money through FmHA or other sources including existing cost-sharing programs for forestry purposes for the planting, care, and harvesting of softwood timber trees.

The farmer must have a Timber Management Plan developed by the U. S. Forest Service, Alabama Forestry Commission, or other such qualified foresters. The farmer can put in as much land as is needed to cashflow his loans, but he must have at least 50 acres. He/She can defer up to \$1,000 per acre or whatever it takes to cashflow for 45 years with the payments coming from timber sales or other income he might generate over the years. The interest rate will be the lower of the rate of interest on the loan(s) being deferred or the current interest rate in effect at the time the ST loan is approved. If FmHA regular servicing actions (rescheduling, reamortization, or deferral) will cashflow his/her operation, then he/she is not eligible for ST loans. Interested FmHA borrowers should contact their FmHA county supervisor for more details. ♣



# Oh, Those Lovely Oaks!



by TOM V. CAMBRE, Hardwood Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

**T**HE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION is undertaking a new program designed for landowners who own lands with hardwood sites. This program is designed to increase the oak component of future stands, if through natural means, this regeneration is not available. An increased percentage of oak will provide the landowner a more valuable stand of timber in the future and also will benefit wildlife through its production of mast.

If landowners wait until after the final harvest to plan for reproduction, it is generally too late. The chances of increasing the proportion of a particular species in the new stand depends upon the character of the old stand and the species' reproductive characteristics. Determining whether a landowner needs to use this program requires having a forester to evaluate the area to be considered. He will note the understory species and seedbed conditions, the amount of advanced regeneration present, the overstory density and composition, duration and frequency of flooding, and if there is evidence of overgrazing from existing deer herds. The specific site characteristics and limitations should also be noted.

In the beginning of the program, it will be necessary for the Alabama Forestry Commission's specialist to examine each site. The following procedures are necessary to make this program a success:

1. *The area to be considered must be a true hardwood site and capable of supporting the species desired.* Site index, soils type, understory species, etc., are important points to determine

needs and species. The area must be examined before cutting (approximately one to one and one-half years prior to the time of seedling needs). This will provide the Nursery Section enough time to procure the seedlings.

2. *All merchantable timber should be harvested.* After this operation is finished, chain saw or shear all remaining stems one inch or larger to promote favorable sprouts and regeneration. If chain sawing is done, stumps should be no higher than six inches from ground level. If shearing is performed, leave stumps at or slightly above ground level. Caution should be taken to avoid the shear blade from entering the soil and causing site destruction. Avoid the use of fire at all times on or in hardwood sites. Do not windrow or pile sheared off felled material. Leave undisturbed after shearing or felling takes place.
3. *Proper care and planting of seedlings should be practiced at all times.* Use good stock. Vigorous seedlings should be selected for planting. This means seedlings that are a minimum of twenty-four inches tall and one-quarter inch diameter at the root collar. An important point is not to allow seedlings to dry during storage. Seedlings should be planted with the root collar slightly below ground level. Seedlings of most hardwood species can be successfully repruned to fit a dibble bar hole about four inches wide and nine inches deep. For most planted hardwoods, best growth occurs on sites that are of

medium texture, moist, yet well-drained. Planting should be twenty feet by twenty feet. At this spacing approximately 110 trees per acre will be needed.

4. *There is usually a good mix of tolerant and intolerant species in bottomland hardwood regeneration cuts.* Species may be difficult to ascertain, though, because regeneration cut areas may go through a jungle-like stage for five to eight years before the growth of individual tree stems restores a forest appearance to the area. Trees of good commercial species will ultimately develop into a codominant position even though sprouts of undesirable species may dominate in the early stages. The inter-planting of oaks will survive and insure the development of quality trees for the future.
5. *Landowners who own areas containing stands of cherry-bark oaks sufficient to collect seed for future seedlings should contact the county forester in their county, if they would like to assist in the development of this program for the future benefit of our hardwood forests.*

In summary, the development of this program will provide and assure quality oak timber for commercial and wildlife use in areas where its presence has declined. For more information and on-the-ground inspection, contact your local county forester or Tom Cambre, Hardwood Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Route 4, Box 160, Dadeville, Alabama 36853 (Telephone No. 205-825-9284).

# ACTIVITIES

**DISTRICT 1** After various degrees of cultivation and nurturing, **TREASURE Forests** are sprouting across **District 1**. At a recent meeting in **Jackson County**, District Forester **Sam Gravel** presented two Jackson County landowners with their **TREASURE Forest** certifications—**Fred St. Clair** and **William St. Clair**.

In **Marshall County**, **William Waldrop** received **TREASURE Forest** designation and State Forester **C.W. Moody** presented another **TREASURE Forest** award to **Dewey Drain** of **Guntersville**.

Also, **A.H. Cooper** of **Jacksonville** became one of **Calhoun County's** newest **TREASURE's**. In addition, **Calhoun County Supervisor David Morris and his wife Sue** were awarded **TREASURE** status for their varied management on their property in **Calhoun County**.

On the resinspection front the following landowners continue to manage their land in an exemplary manner worthy of **TREASURE Forest** designation: **Frank Mason, Gerald Willis**—**Calhoun/Cherokee**; **Harry Sizemore, Ned Dennis**—**Marshall**; **William Kampmeir**—**Jackson**.

**District 1** sponsored a demonstration using explosives to build firebreaks in mountainous areas. The test site was in **Cherokee County** with Fire Specialist **Dan Fincher** coordinating the activities with **Cherokee County Ranger Johnny Roberts**. **Fred Patterson** with Dept. of Public Safety in **Montgomery** provided the expertise in using the explosives. Representatives from the State Office, **Cherokee County Sheriff's office** and **District 1 personnel** attended the test firings. The results were less than desirable which could be due to the specific timber type and the weather conditions the day of the test. Further testing may be undertaken in an effort to determine new and quicker ways to build firelanes on labor intensive mountain fires.

**County Forester Mark Sullivan**, Forest Technician **Mark Roberts** and Management Specialist **Brian Bradley** all participated in recent **Earth Day** activities in **Huntsville**. A **North Alabama tree identification** course was conducted on one of the many trails at the **Birritt Museum** which is a certified **TREASURE Forest**. Also, activities highlighting the use of **Project Learning Tree** were conducted for children, parents, and teachers. **Rei Boyce**, State Coordinator for the **PLT**, developed a tabletop display used to inform the public of the benefits and possibilities of the **PLT** program. Approximately 200 people from **Huntsville** and **Madison County** attended the celebration.

The **North Alabama Reforestation Committee** recently met with **Hardwood Specialist Tom Cambre** as the keynote

speaker. What normally is a one-hour meeting at lunch turned into a two-and-a-half-hour discussion indicating much interest and a strong desire to learn new techniques on the part of the participants. Foresters and technicians from **forest industry, AFC, TVA and SCS** attended.

**Tom Cambre** spent two days in **District 1** instructing and working with different personnel on specific hardwood questions. With the diversity of flat land in valleys; steep mountain slopes; plateaus; varying soil types from deep, well-drained to almost non-existent; and different aspects all affecting hardwood growth, his expertise was greatly appreciated.

Having implemented new tree planting guidelines in last year's management plans calling for 80% correct planting on cost-sharing programs, **District 1 personnel** were very busy this past season checking for compliance. In addition to putting in long hours, we had excellent cooperation and problem-solving from **Bill Padgett** and **David Hoge** from the **AFC State Office**. Most of the planting was by hand and our vendors did an outstanding job of cooperating to meet the new requirements. We planted about 3 million seedlings. Now that the season is over, we can breathe a sigh of relief and know that the landowners in **District 1** got a good quality tree planting job.

The **Tennessee Valley RC and D Council** installed a new chairperson at a recent quarterly meeting. **Edwin Carter** of **Cullman County** was selected to preside over the council's conservation activities in the **Tennessee Valley**. The term of **Houston Kenamer** of **Jackson County** expired this year and the **Forestry Committee** will certainly miss his interest and support of its forestry activities. Committee Chairman **John Jacobs** said he looks forward to **Carter's** term in office and the opportunity to acquaint him with the forestry needs in the area.

**DISTRICT 3** All the associates of **District 3** offer our warmest congratulations to **Hale County Forester Jim Junkin** and his new bride **Ellen Crowder Junkin**. **Jim and Ellen** exchanged vows in **Aliceville** on **May 21**.

We welcome a new associate, **Charlie Squires III**, as the **District 3 temporary pilot** late in the spring fire season. **Charlie** has been doing an excellent job in fire detection and **SPB flights**. We also welcome **Dr. W. D. Sudduth** of **Hale County** into our **TREASURE Forest** family. **Dr. Sudduth** has the primary objective of timber and a secondary objective of wildlife on his newly certified 1,673-acre **TREASURE Forest**. Congratulations to our recertified **TREASURE Forest landowners**—**Thad May** of **Hale County**, **Bruce Baughman** of **Tuscaloosa County**, and **Dr. James Sherwood** of **Tuscaloosa County**.

Herbicide information sessions seemed to be the most popular topic for landowner sessions in **District 3** in late winter and early spring. **Marvin Cox** of **Montgomery**

**Agricultural Spray Company** displayed his **ATV-mounted spray rig** and **Dupont** picked up the tab for lunch at sessions at the **Pickens County AFC office** and in **Hale County** at **Judge Wright's TREASURE Forest, Millwood**. **Dr. Robert Mitchell** of **Auburn University** put on very informational sessions in **Fayette and Tuscaloosa Counties**. The **Tuscaloosa County Forestry Planning Committee** put on another landowner session utilizing those great **Auburn people** when they had an **April wildlife session** with **Dr. Lee Stribling** of **A.U.** giving an excellent presentation.

**District 3** had many **Arbor Week** activities including the planting of a four-year-old maple at **Brookwood Elementary School** in celebration of the **City of Brookwood** being named our fourth **Tree City, U.S.A.** **Harry Kepler**, **Forestry Worker** in **Tuscaloosa County** and member of the **Brookwood Tree Commission**, spoke about all the activities **Brookwood** accomplished in the last year. **Tree Cities York and Livingston** of **Sumter County** also celebrated **Arbor Week** with the planting of large trees at their respective elementary schools. The **City of Moundville** celebrated their second year as a **Tree City, U.S.A.** with the planting of several trees, one of which was a live oak seedling grown from an acorn of the **Duffie Oak**, a historic **Mobile Oak**. **Mobile City Forester Ron Jackson** donated the oak of behalf on the **City of Mobile** and was the featured speaker at **Moundville's Arbor Week** celebration.

**District Forester Wayne Strawbridge** announced the transfer of **Staff Forester Dan Lassetter** to **Lamar County** where he will be a county forester trainee.

**DISTRICT 4** The **Lafayette Sun** has carried articles concerning a **Tree Farm award**; **Smokey Bear program**; **tree planting seminar** with 35 people attending; and **Farm/City Week**. **Clayton Schwind** did a **Smokey Bear program** at **Chambers Academy**; a **Homemaker's Club** program on tree planting; a school program at **Chambers Academy**; and a **Smokey Bear program** at **Lanett Elementary School** for 150 students. He also attended meetings at **Chambers County, Lafayette and Union Hill Volunteer Fire Departments**.

An **RCFP Association** meeting was held in **Clay County** during this quarter in order to develop a **District 4 RCFP newsletter**. The plans were completed and the first issue of the newsletter was published.

**Earl Smith** attended an emergency board meeting at the **ASCS office** in **Ashland** to determine the need for emergency assistance for farmers due to the drought. He also attended 10 **volunteer fire department** meetings in **Clay County** during the winter quarter.

**W. N. McCollum** taught 40 hours of basic firefighting at **Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department**.

**Earl Smith and Wayne Johnson** attended

16 hours of hazardous materials training in Ashland. Smith also attended an ARCP meeting in Ashland.

**Smith and McCollum** assisted the **Clay County Hospital** staff in planting an Eastern red cedar for the Christmas Tree of Love.

**Blake Kelley and Joel Neighbors** presented a program on fire prevention to 30 Cub Scouts at **Rockford Methodist Church**; Smokey gave out rulers and coloring books. **Blake Kelley** assisted in judging the Pine Wood Racing event for **Cub Scouts in Coosa County** during January.

**Ralph Woolley** attended 6 Volunteer Fire Department meetings.

**Bill Nixon** had a **Georgia Kraft** forester to present a tree planting demonstration (industry's way of seedling planting). The forester was assisted by **Georgia Extension Service**. Nixon assisted in the presentation of a TREASURE Forest Certificate to the **Roanoke Lions Club**. Twenty-five attended. Nixon wrote a letter of thanks to all the volunteer help during the rash of fires in November; it was published in the local newspaper. **Nixon and Smokey** did a program for the **Rock Mills Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts**. He also organized a forestry demonstration for landowners and had them do "hands-on" seedling planting with dibbles and hoe-dads.

**Charles Sikes and Mary Tucker** (with able assistance from **I & E, Montgomery (Cynthia Page, Linda Parten, and Barbara Shepard)** set up a booth at the **Randolph-Roanoke Vocational School** where all the **Randolph County juniors and seniors** gathered for Career Day 1987.

**Bill Nixon** did a fire prevention article for the **Frog Level** paper, and Nixon and Smokey did programs for the **Roanoke Kindergarten** and the **Wedowee First Grade**.

**The Camp Hill Community Club** held their November meeting at **District 4 Headquarters** in the conference room. **Mary Tucker** conducted the twenty members on a tour of the building—various offices and dispatch center—with explanations of our work in forest management (not just fire suppression). After an excellent dish dinner, the group enjoyed a video program on TREASURE Forests provided by the **I & E Section**. This is one of the most interesting video cassette programs of general interest that we have had available for use with any adult group.

DISTRICT  
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On February 8, **Mike Cleckler and Tim Albritton** met with the **Clanton High School FFA** and showed a film, **Careers in Forestry**. They also had a question and answer period during which they described their jobs with the Alabama Forestry Commission.

On February 18, **Mike Cleckler, Tim Albritton and Danny Clark** presented a Smokey Bear program to **Verbena Elementary School** first through third graders.

**Tim Albritton and Mike Cleckler** administered the forestry judging contest to

**Clanton and Isabella High School FFA** teams on April 5.

On January 25, **Gordon Durham** (RCD Forester) was introduced to the **Wilcox County CRD Committee**. He gave a program on forest industry in the area.

The **Camden Tree Commission** held its third annual tree planting ceremony on March 7 commemorating Arbor Week and Camden's third year as a Tree City, USA.

**Dallas County's Annual Farm-City Day** was held in Selma on February 4. Speakers included **Dr. Frank Roth** with ACES who spoke on forestry and forest economics; and **Dr. Lee Stribling, ACES, who addressed the subject of income potential from hunting leases. The Dallas County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored a tree giveaway at Farm-City Day. A mixed variety of hardwood seedlings were given away.

The **West-Central Alabama District FFA Forestry Judging Competition** was held in Marion on April 16. District 5 Headquarters Forester **Alan Williams** and Ranger **David Stewart** of Perry County served as judges for the competition.

DISTRICT  
6

On April 5, Geneva County Rural Development Committee in conjunction with Dupont Corporation were host to a landowner workshop meeting and a sit-down catfish dinner. Dupont presented a program concerning herbicides for weed control to an audience composed of Treasure Forest and CRP landowners from the surrounding Geneva county area.

Leading the District in Treasure Forest certifications, Pike County recently awarded their 17th Treasure Forest to landowner John Dorrill Jr. Also Pike County personnel recertified Nancy B. Hicks and William Stewart as Treasure Forest landowners.

The Wiregrass RC and D Forestry Committee recently sponsored three tax workshops for Treasure Forest landowners. From Montgomery, Chief of Marketing and Economic Development, Lou Hyman presented programs concerning tax laws and incentives for landowners at Troy, Eufaula, and Luverne.

On April 28, the Dale County Landowner Association held a meeting at the county library where Lou Hyman presented a program on Alabama's Fourth Forest to Treasure Forest landowners. During the meeting, Lou awarded a Tree Farm certificate and sign to Louis Faust for his performance of good stewardship on his property.

On April 15, Geneva County Landowner Association held a luncheon meeting where District Forester Franklin McAliley awarded the Treasure Forest certificates and signs to Millard Snell and N. W. Phillips for the excellent stewardship of their forests. Geneva County Supervisor Ronnie Hickman and Ranger Herman Grantham recently recertified Method C. Holmes as a Treasure Forest landowner.

Henry County Supervisor Kenneth Blalock

and Ranger Tommy Haynes worked hard to finally recertify Max and Dwight Ethridge as Treasure Forest landowners.

Dale County Treasure Forest landowner, H. C. Jordon was the host to this year's FFA judging contest for Dale county. AFC personnel from District 6 wishes to express our thanks to you, Mr. Jordon, for your hospitality.

Houston County personnel are proud to recertify James Hughes and Family as Treasure Forest landowners.

On January 27, 1988, **District Forester Robert Dismukes and Fire Specialist Lesley Williford** trained 44 Union Camp personnel who were subject to wildfire suppression duties in a wildfire safety program.

On February 3, 1988, **District Forester Robert Dismukes, Management Specialist Gib Burke and Covington County Supervisor Albert Hardage** worked with a U. S. Forest Service inspection team reviewing CRP cases in Covington County.

**Protection Division Director Richard Cumbie** was in District 7 on April 19 videoing fire control equipment in Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe counties.

**Bo Renfro** of **Killingsworth Associates** was at Brewton Headquarters for the final year-end inspection of the district headquarters office and shop on January 13, 1988.

On February 24, 1988, **District Forester Robert Dismukes and Escambia County Supervisor Robert Knowles** made a Tree City, U.S.A. presentation to the **City of Atmore**. This is the first city in Escambia County to be given this honor.

Three new fire departments in **Conecuh County** have signed memos of understanding and agreement this year.

**Castleberry, Alabama**, was the site of the **Second Annual Strawberry Festival** on April 30, 1988. **Conecuh County Supervisor Victor Howell, James North and Smokey Bear** were present for this event.

**Conecuh County** has set up a FFA Forestry Judging Contest. Three schools are involved in this project.

On March 8 and March 15, 1988, **Terra International and Dupont Chemical** hosted a landowners' and vendors' meeting in **Evergreen and Opp**.

On March 30 **Fire Specialist Lesley Williford and District Forester Robert Dismukes** attended an Environmental Crimes Seminar in Mobile which was sponsored by the FBI.

**Soil and Water Conservation Service** hosted a supper in **Andalusia** on October 21, 1987 and presented awards to the **Covington County personnel** for their outstanding work in the CRP program.

**Ranger Ernest Johnson and Forestry Worker Spenser Day** assisted the city of **Monroeville** in prescribe burning their 100 acre Industrial Park.

**Monroe County personnel** coordinated the county FFA Forestry Judging Contest.

**Ranger Johnny Kline** assisted with the district judging contest. **Monroe County** won in this contest.

There will be a statewide ARCP tour of **Senator Ann Bedsole's** property in Monroe County on May 17, 1988.

**District Forester Robert Dismukes** attended dedication ceremonies for the new firehouse at **Poarch Indian Reservation** on February 27.

**DISTRICT 8** On February 27, Mobile County Supervisor **Steve Lyda**, Ranger **Major Harris**, and **Jessie Scott** held an Arbor Day program and seedling give-away at the Mobile Fairgrounds. Approximately 800 people attended.

**John Martin**, Baldwin County Forester, visited the cities of **Silverhill and Fairhope** on February 19 and 24, respectively, to help celebrate Arbor Day with a Tree City, USA program and seedling give-away.

Choctaw County Ranger **Pete McInnis** set up a beautiful display and booth to honor and celebrate **Special Olympics Day in Butler**. Fire prevention material was distributed.

On February 25 Grove Hill Mayor **Alice McVay** signed an Arbor Week Proclamation. **Benji Elmore**, Clarke County Forester, gave away seedlings. The turn-out was great.

On March 10 **Lynn Sullivan**, Washington County Forester, submitted an article to the **South Alabamian** about a Washington County property that was saved with the aid of an Aqua Duk Pump.

For several weeks in February, Baldwin County Forester **John Martin**, Assistant County Supervisor **Lynn Booth**, and District 8 Fire Specialist **Charles Rawls** worked closely with officials from **Paramount Pictures** for an explosion scene for the movie **Friday the 13th, Part VII--Birth Day Bash**. The filming took place in a swampy area in Baldwin County. **Crossroads Fire Department and White House Forks Fire Department** with several fire trucks along with Baldwin County Ranger **Michael Jordan** and **Richard Johnson** with a tractor unit, all stood by in case of trouble, but everything went off without a hitch.

On February 25, District 8 Management Specialist **Larry Grable**, Mobile County Supervisor **Steve Lyda**, Assistant County Supervisor **Jerry Dwyer** and Ranger **Jim Wade** conducted a herbicide and CRP program with an educational film on the subject. Spray equipment was demonstrated. Approximately 60 landowners attended.

March was a very busy month for District 8, especially in **Baldwin and Mobile Counties**. **Mobile County personnel** battled 177 fires, issued 8 unlawful burning notices, handled 17 new CRP sign-ups, and checked 26 CRP plantings. **Baldwin County personnel** fought 116 fires, issued 13 arrest tickets and 11 unlawful burning notices, wrote 40 new CRP management plans, and checked 140 CRP plantings along with maintaining all other AFC programs.

**DISTRICT 9** An Arbor Day Program conducted at Hamilton Elementary in February honored the late **Hubert Hopkins**. A large group of citizens, school children and garden club members attended the tree planting program planned by **Tony Avery and Louise Bone**. The program included songs by the school children, an appearance by **Smokey Bear** and special speeches including the reading of the **Arbor Day Proclamation** by **Mayor E. T. Sims**. The dedication was read by Tony Avery, as follows, "This tree is dedicated to the memory of Hubert Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins served Marion County as Forest Ranger for 34 years. Realizing the importance of forestry to Marion County, he laid the groundwork for an outstanding forestry program. He loved Marion County—the people and the forest. This tree will live as a legacy to him."

**District 9 employees** were involved in the Wildflower Workshop held in Florence on April 26. Approximately 120 members of garden clubs and the general public heard **Cliff Dixon**, Engineer and Landscape Architect with the State Highway Department, tell about what is being done to landscape Alabama's roadsides. **Tony Avery** presented a program on "How To Construct a Nature/Wildflower Trail." He used slides showing the AFC trail in Hamilton as an example. **Louise Bone and Hammie Stamps** served as co-chairmen of the workshop, with assistance from **Mable Rickard** of Florence.

The **Tree City, USA** flag was presented to **Mayor Eddie Frost** and the **Florence City Commission** in a press conference called by the mayor. The press conference was attended by a large group of citizens, local media representatives and AFC employees. **Ron Blackwelder** represented the **Florence Tree Commission** and **Chuck Weber**, Huntsville City Arborist, was a guest speaker.

**Tammy Ellis, Rick Banks, Tim Gothard** and **Neal Taylor** are working with the **City of Russellville on Tree City, USA**. Tammy is also working with **Tony Avery** in presenting Tree City, USA information to the **City of Hamilton**.

**Kathy McCollum, Roger Nichols, Tammy Ellis, and Steve McEachron** attended the **Fourth Annual Tree Conference** held in Selma.

"Arbor Week Comes to the Shoals," was the slogan used by area leaders during the 1988 celebration of Arbor Week. Activities included a special Arbor Week program held by the **City of Florence**. **Champion International** donated several trees which were planted in **Wilson Park**. **Wal-Mart in Florence** and **Muscle Shoals** held their annual free tree giveaway programs providing dogwood to their customers at both stores.

Tree planting programs were held in most cities and communities in the district. Proclamations were signed by mayors, trees were planted by school children and civic clubs. The members of the **Pilot Club** of Florence distributed 100 trees to be planted by their members as part of the city's

beautification program.

The **Florence Council of Garden Clubs** dedicated a "Living Legacy" tree at historic **Pope's Tavern** in Florence. The ceremony was attended by AFC employees, garden club representatives and city officials. For the past 27 years, the **Alabama Forestry Commission** has secured a red cedar for the annual Christmas tree lighting at Pope's Tavern. This tree is to serve as a permanent tree for this program.

**Franklin County AFC employees** are conducting a survey of large landowners to ask their attitudes about the forestry program in Franklin County and what they would like to see implemented. Response to this survey has been very good.

**Franklin County employees** participated in 22 public relations activities during the months of February and March, 1988.

**Tammy Ellis** is working with **Danny Deaton** in presenting **Tree City, USA** programs in the cities of **Sheffield and Tuscumbia**.

**Woody Owl is proud!** as **Colbert County** gives a hoot! Since the Clean-up Committee, led by **Danny Deaton**, was first formed in October, 1987, over 30 illegal dump sites have been cleaned up and several miles of highway picked up. Dumpsters have also been placed at county schools for temporary clean-up projects. Adopting a new name, **People Against Litter of the Shoals**, the committee has plans for posters, local awards and billboards advertising their clean-up projects. Some of departments involved include the **Alabama Forestry Commission, the Colbert County Commission, the County Health Department, County Highway Department, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Waste Contractors, and Muscle Shoals Garden Club**. The future of **Colbert County looks clean!**

The **Marion County Office** building is nearing completion. The AFC employees are involved in landscaping the grounds surrounding the building.

**Wayne Winsted** of Colbert County led another school group on an annual field trip to **Chief Colbert Canyon**. The trip involved a hike through some of North Alabama's finest hardwoods.

**Have Beetle Will Travel!** **Colbert County Ranger Talton Everette** is preparing for another hard battle with the southern pine beetle as indications point toward a tough season for the county. Talton has been working with paper companies and landowners to get an early jump on preventing the insect's spread.

**DISTRICT 10** The **Areawide Natural Resources Planning Committee** met in Sedgefield Plantation's Fieldhouse in **Bullock County** near Union Springs April 19 to make arrangements for the Third Multi-County Landowner Gathering, Field Day and Outdoor Eating set for the spring of 1989. Exact dates, times and locations as well as

subjects for demonstration and discussion are being considered by committee members and will be finalized at the next meeting later this summer. Sponsored by **County Forestry Planning Committees** and underwritten by forestry equipment and supply manufacturers, topics at these fielddays are notably timely and interesting and of use to area forestland owners.

**PALS** met at the Montgomery Madison Hotel April 11 for their first full-scale consideration of the problems of solid waste disposal, or the lack of adequate methods of handling the large volumes of solids produced by Alabamians, and those tons that are being brought here from other states for disposition. At least three District 10 counties have terminal dates in sight for current landfill sites—**Bullock, Lowndes, and Macon**. Our personnel in those counties are already fielding enforcement requests. This will be among the top items of concern for AFC and many others during the next few years.

**Management specialists** from industry, education and forestry agencies gathered April 5 at the **Beard Agriculture Building** in Montgomery for a session on orientation and interpretation of the **1987 Federal Clean Water Act** and its implications for Alabama.

Over 100 people attended the program co-hosted by the **Department of Agriculture, AFC and related organizations**. **State Forester Moody** gave the kick-off and wrap-up talks highlighting the current interest in best management practices and their aspects under the new law. BMP's are still very much alive and well in our state's forests.

**Elmore County** has been busy with Arbor

Week/Day presentations and programs, forestland tax meetings, **TREASURE** Forest certification presentations, and a Christmas tree producers' workshop. This last workshop was on the **Frank Wadsworth** property on April 16 at which **Dick Cobb**, an Auburn Tree Grower, gave a practical demonstration of the latest production techniques for Christmas trees and tree marketing. ♣

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## CALENDAR

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**July 12-15**—Orlando, Florida. Southern Forested Wetlands. Call Donald Hook, (803)556-4860.

**July 12**—Bolivar, Tennessee. Wildlife Management Seminar. Call Jack Knepp, (901)658-2421.

**July 12**—Jefferson County. Alabama Forest Owners' Association, 7:30 p.m., AmSouth Bank, Hoover. Forest Operations: A Four Year Course of Study at Alabama A & M. Learn how to plan for and to get better results when you make a timber sale. Dr. John Derrington will present the program. Dinner at Shoney's in Hoover, 6:00 p.m.

**July 26-28**—Lee County. Southern Bio-

mass Conference. Call Graeme Lockaby, (205)826-4050.

**August 12-13**—Fifth Alabama Landowner and **TREASURE** Forest Conference. Montgomery. Features will include timber harvesting and wildlife management. Awards banquet will be held on evening of August 12 and a field day on August 13. **SEE THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON THE LAST TWO PAGES OF THIS MAGAZINE.** For more information contact Melanie Curry, (205)240-9319.

*\*Any member agency of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee can be contacted about events listed in this section.*

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# CHUFAS

## By Any Other Name Will Still Attract Turkeys!

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by JAMES M. EASLEY, Wildlife Biologist

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**M**ANY NAMES HAVE BEEN given to one single plant—rush nuts, sweet tubers, or earth almonds. Turkey and hog managers know it best by chufas (*Cyperus esculentus* L.).

When chufas first found a place in Southern agriculture is not known; however, it was many years ago. Chufas are native to Africa and southern Europe and have been cultivated from early time. Best estimates put the use of this plant in our agriculture programs during the late 1890's and early 1900's. The chufas is a sedge and is very similar to the nut-grass (*Cyperus rotundus* L.) that is such a pest in vegetable and flower gardens of the Southeast. Depending on the soil, moisture, and fertility,



heavy crops of tubers or nutlets are produced. Many species of wildlife eat the tubers from time of maturity in the fall until they sprout again in the spring.

“When the Spanish explorers brought the turkey to Spain from Central America, North America made its most important avian contribution to the economy of our globe,” according to A. W. Schorger in his 1966 publication of **The Wild Turkey—Its History and Domestication**. With almost five centuries of recorded history to its background, this fowl continues to exhibit behaviors that require verification with further study. One fact does stand out, however—Eastern wild turkey do exhibit a very positive



**The  
National  
Arbor Day  
Foundation**  
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410



## **Keep A Great Thing Growing AMERICA TREE CITY USA**

Go ahead, reach for the apple. Take a crispy crunch. Trees are vitally important to the survival of our planet. They provide us with oxygen...and an apple to eat. They give us shade on hot sunny days. They create pleasant places to relax and get away from the hustle

and bustle. They are great places to play.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is dedicated to the planting and care of trees. Our nationwide urban forestry program, Tree City USA, is designed to help hundreds of American cities large and small care for their trees.

Get involved and support Tree City USA where you live. For more information, write: The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

preference for "chufas." This supplemental food source is a choice turkey food. Chufas are probably second only to corn as the most widely used supplemental food crop for wild turkeys. The debates over baiting render chufas the hands down choice for number one supplemental food in the late fall, winter, and on into spring.

### **Planting Considerations**

The chufas were once planted extensively on sandy soils of the Southeast for domestic hogs, but as managers have turned more to multiple-use land management planning, it is now planted mainly for wildlife.

Because chufas are such a preferred food of many species of wildlife, sizes of planting are the main factors involved in attracting and holding numbers of wild turkeys. The size of the food plot should not be less than one-quarter acre. Three to five acres are recommended where deer and raccoon populations are high. During the fall, a good chufas patch is as good a place to attract a raccoon as a corn patch is in the early summer. More and more raccoon hunters are finding out that lands that are managed for turkeys make some of the best raccoon habitat around.

Although sandy soils are best for chufas production and availability, the plants can be planted on heavier soils. Turkeys are very strong scratchers, but the heavier soil may need to be run over with a light disk to make the nutlets easier to obtain.

Chufas are also excellent water fowl food. Plantings of chufas above the high water lines of flooded fields are used eagerly by sandhill cranes, Canadian geese, mallards, pintails, and perhaps other ducks. Areas that are flooded and hold water for extended periods usually have the heavier clay soil and these are the areas that need the light disking.

### **Disadvantages**

One drawback of chufas is their tendency to become infested with a weevil and a fungus when planted year after year in the same plot. Another drawback is the severe weed problem that arises after the second or third year of planting them on the same site. Yet another drawback probably should not be called that, but the pocket gopher or salamander (locally) is considered a pest. They tend to work over the chufas fields much the same as peanut fields. The main reason they are such a problem is that they also have to have the deeper sandy soil to live. Chufas planted in the heavier soils will usually discourage this pest. Alternating the location of the chufas patches every fourth





year will help keep any of the drawbacks from being too detrimental.

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### Cultural Specifications

Cultural specifications for chufas are as follows:

*Soil Adaptation.* Sand to sandy loams, well drained to somewhat poorly drained. Heavier soils work well if the chufas are turned up for the wildlife. Newly cleared land is best for planting.

*Methods of Establishment.* Drilling the tubers with a grain drill or planting in rows.

*Fertility Requirements.* Moderate, chiefly nitrogen. Only slight increases were obtained with fertilizers in Florida Agricultural Experiment Station research.

*Calcium Needs.* Low.

*Planting Time.* April to early July.

*Rate and Spacing to Plant.* 30 to 40# drilled and in rows 2½ to 3 feet apart at 6 inch spacing in the row.

*Cultivation.* Usually not necessary the first year on new ground and when drilled. Second year plantings should be done in rows and kept clean as for any other row crop by cultivating.

*Maintenance Planting.* Some volunteering will take place on larger plantings for one or more years, but replantings, in the main, are advised for continual crops.

*Size of Planting for Wildlife.* Planting less than 3 acres is often destroyed by raccoons or the turkeys themselves. For Canadian geese 3 acres or more should be planted. The geese and turkeys will dig the tubers provided the soil is not too stiff. Control of non-target

species may be necessary (raccoon trapping) where turkeys are the primary desired wildlife species. See regulations for each state's trapping season.

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### Other Uses

Most of this article has focused on the use of chufas as a supplemental food crop for turkeys. In Italy and Egypt the fatty oil extracted from chufas was used as food and in the manufacture of soap. In southern Europe chufas were used as a substitute for coffee and cocoa (no caffeine). Had George Washington Carver worked with chufa, we might be enjoying this sedge as much as we have the peanut and its many uses.

Let the turkey on your land decide—give them some *ground* almonds! ♣

# Another Tool for Forest Landowners

# FOREST FARMERS

by B. JACK WARREN, Executive Vice President, Forest Farmers Association

**W**HAT DOES IT TAKE to be a *successful* Forest Farmer? Someland, some trees, and all the help you can get!

For landowners who want to make the most of their woodlands, no matter how large or small, Forest Farmers Association has been one of the best sources of help since 1941. From the beginning, the association has worked to meet the needs of thousands of private, nonindustrial timberland owners in the 15 Southeastern states. Membership includes farmers, housewives, doctors, forestry executives, lawyers, accountants, construction workers, teachers, engineers, foresters, and a host of people from other trades and professions.

The help Forest Farmers provides comes in a variety of forms. Many landowners need information on managing forests for profitable wood production, for recreation, and for a sense of better stewardship of the resources they control. The association works to meet this need in several ways.

**Forest Farmer** magazine and **Forest Farmer Manual** have an established reputation for readability and accuracy. For some readers the publications serve as do-it-yourself manuals. For others they give a better understanding of the work being done by consultants, harvesters, and forest farmers.

Each issue of the magazine is filled with solid information on how to manage timberland for conservation and profit. In addition, the magazines and special *News Alerts* keep landowners posted on federal legislation and regulations that enhance (or threaten) the viability of timberland management. Articles also deal with local issues that have regional significance for forest owners, such as the controversy over pine beetle control on the Four Notch Wilderness Area in east Texas.

Each issue has a special "theme" featuring a specific aspect of Southern forestry. The September issue covers services provided by

the forest products industry; the October issue deals with regeneration. In November-December taxation and finance were the topics; in January, land and timber management; and in February, legislative matters. The May issue covers working with a consulting forester, a popular topic for several years. In commenting about a recent May issue, the executive vice president of the Association of Consulting Foresters wrote, "Our membership is most impressed by the May . . . issue of **Forest Farmer** . . . at our annual meeting a motion was made, and unanimously passed, to express to you and all of your staff the sincere appreciation of the Association of Consulting Foresters." Through the magazine and other endeavors, Forest Farmers Association is working to foster better communications and more goodwill between forest landowners and their consultants.

It's worth noting that several wood products companies use **Forest Farmer** as a tool in their landowner assistance programs, and they tell us the magazine's how-to-do-it articles and its high level of readability make **Forest Farmer** an ideal communications aid.

In addition, by projecting a positive image of the forest industry in such features as *People* and *A Look at the Man*, **Forest Farmer** helps foster a better working relationship between wood products companies and private nonindustrial owners.

**Forest Farmer Manual** is published every-other-March. Considered an indispensable reference source by veteran Southern foresters, it contains articles of lasting value on a variety of forest management, forest business management and safety topics. It also features directories of associations, agencies, consultants, companies, wood dealers, and many other useful contacts.

In 1986, the association, in cooperation with the Southern Region Cooperative Extension Service, developed a "Woodland Man-

agement" correspondence course. Several hundred landowners are enrolled and many have completed the course. The association also established the Forest Farmers Association Education and Research Foundation to further serve the needs of its members and future generations of forest landowners and managers.

In addition to the need for information, forest owners also need help in protecting their investments with supportive legislation. From the beginning, members have looked to the association to conduct a tough-minded and precisely targeted lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. Forest Farmers Association and its executive vice president are the only Southern-based regional lobbyists registered to testify before Congress on behalf of private nonindustrial timberland owners.

Members have learned the value of supporting an association to defend their interests in the face of well intentioned but sometimes poorly advised legislation, while also promoting bills to benefit the forest resource and its owners. Ongoing efforts to help lawmakers understand the long-term nature of timber growing and its special needs begin afresh with each session of Congress.

Members play an important part in these efforts. Typically, association officers and other members with particular knowledge or experience testify before congressional committees. **Forest Farmer** also coordinates member contact with key legislators to make sure our case gets a sympathetic hearing.

This active lobbying effort exemplifies the association's grassroots character and its effectiveness. Congress appreciates these qualities and it respects association spokesmen for their forthright opinions and expertise. As former U.S. Senator Russell B. Long (D-LA) said recently, "I am willing to work with Forest Farmers Association, which is well respected in Washington." Senator

# ASSOCIATION

Long, like many of his colleagues, knew that our association's perspective was well balanced, informed by the thoughts of prominent Southern timberland owners, executives from wood products companies, state foresters, U.S. Forest Service leaders, forestry consultants, and others from the forestry community.

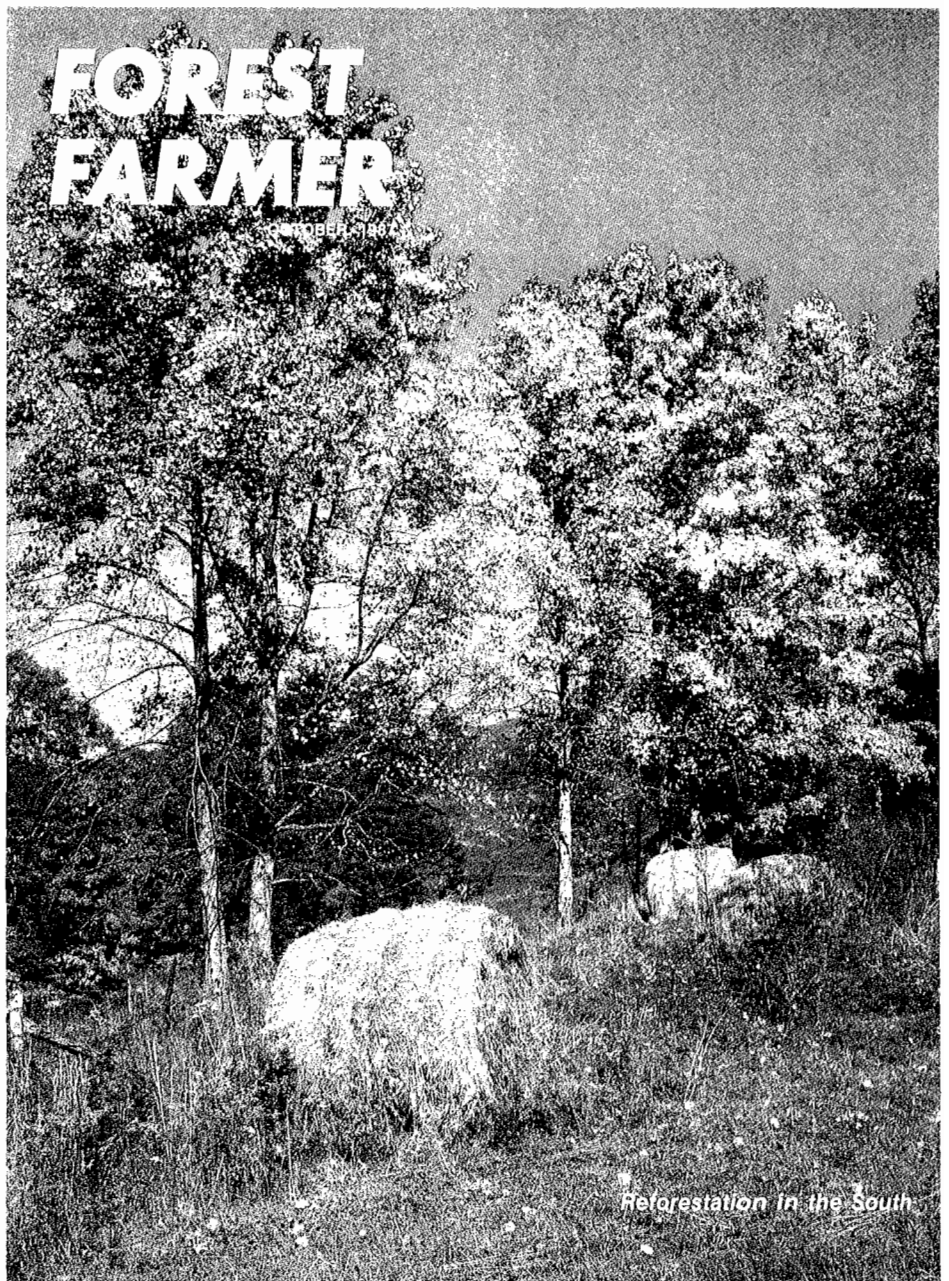
The forest products companies in the South recognize the association's effectiveness, which was expressed by Don Taylor, vice president, Champion International Corporation, in a recent statement, "Forest Farmers Association is reputed to be the most potent political force in the whole forestry community."

Dr. John F. Hosner, director of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources at Virginia Tech, is president of the association. Additional leadership is provided by a board of regional vice presidents including Bruce R. Miles, state forester of Texas; Noll A. Van Cleave, president of Valley Wood, Richland, Georgia; A. Felton Andrews, a private timberland owner from Memphis, Tennessee; A. C. Edwards, wood procurement manager for Westvaco Corporation in North Charleston, South Carolina; and Ronald M. Bost, vice president, forestry, for Crescent Land and Timber Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina.

In the year ahead, the association will work to expand membership and to address several important issues such as federal estate taxes and expanding the Conservation Reserve Program. We will take a more active role in publicizing the contributions of private forest landowners to America's economic health. And we will strive to provide more help to more forest landowners in their efforts to practice better forest management.

You can obtain more information on membership by writing the Forest Farmers Association, P. O. Box 95385, Atlanta, GA 30347.

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# ACTIVE MANAGEMENT CAN SAVE YOU TAX DOLLARS

by L. LOUIS HYMAN, Chief, Forest Marketing and Economic Development

**I**T SEEMS THAT LIFE AND TAXES keep getting more and more complicated. The latest fallout from the Tax Reform Act of 1986 has been the issuance of a set of Internal Revenue Service regulations that can significantly reduce the deductibility of timber management costs for landowners.

The intent of Congress was to eliminate abusive tax shelters. They did this by classifying all income into three groups: *active income, passive income, and investment income*. The tax effect of this rule is that an individual cannot deduct the costs of a passive activity against income from an active business. In other words, if you are declared a passive manager, you may not deduct the cost of managing your forestland from your other income, such as salaries.

The IRS regulations that explain this new system have been published. They run for 266 pages. And this is tax simplification!

## Active Management

In order to be allowed to fully deduct your forest management costs, you must show that you are the active manager of the property. The IRS has listed six tests for active management that would apply to

forestland owners. Pass *one* and you are an active manager.

These tests are as follows:

1. *You spend over 500 hours a year managing your property.* This translates into roughly ten hours per week.
2. *You do "substantially all" of the work that year yourself.*
3. *You spend more than 100 hours managing your property (roughly one day a month), and nobody spends more time there than you do (including employees, vendors, and consultants).*
4. (This one is complicated) *You spend over 500 hours a year on several projects. You must spend at least 100 hours on each project, but not more than 500 hours on a single one.*
5. *You can show that you were an active manager under tests 1, 2, 3, or 4 for five of the last ten years.*
6. *You have spent at least 100 hours and can show, "based on all the facts and circumstances," that you were an active manager.*

## Active Managers

If you are declared an active manager, you will be allowed to fully deduct all the costs of

managing your forestlands. These *costs* include *consulting forester; repairs and maintenance to roads, fences and fire lines; prescribed burning; small hand tools used on the property; travel to the property; timber stand improvement and wildlife management for such things as food plots.*

These costs are fully deductible and should be reported on either Form T (Timber Industries), Schedule F (Farm Income and Expenses), or Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business or Profession).

## Investment Managers

If you do not meet the active manager's test, the next best thing is to have your forestland declared an "investment." As an investment, you may take all of the deductions listed for active managers, but they are classified as "Miscellaneous Deductions" and must be listed in that section of Schedule A (Itemized Deductions).

The Tax Reform Act placed a floor on miscellaneous deductions. You may only deduct those miscellaneous costs that exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income. So, if your income was \$25,000 last year, you may only count the amount of miscellaneous deductions that exceeded \$500. The \$500 would be lost—no deduction.

It should be noted that even for an investment, *property taxes are fully deductible.*

Interest charges for an investment property can be included in the miscellaneous group, but it is limited to the amount of investment income for that year plus \$10,000.

## Passive Managers

The passive manager category is the worst case. A passive manager may only deduct the costs of management up to the amount of income received from all of his passive activities. Therefore, if you cannot show income during the year from hunting leases or timber sales, then you cannot deduct any costs. These costs instead must be capitalized and later recovered when the timber or the



land is sold. This rule also applies to any interest charges relating to the land.

Property taxes are still fully deductible. If the property also contains your "second home" then you may be able to deduct some of the mortgage charges.

### Unanswered Questions

There are still many unanswered questions in this area. Generally, the IRS feels that if a married couple files a joint return, then the term "Taxpayer" and "You," as used in the regulations, applies to both of them. If they hold to that, then a husband and wife must earn the 100 hours between them. If you both go for the day then you can earn 16-20 hours that day.

Also, the rules say that no one individual can spend more time there than you. This may mean that your vendor or consulting forester will need to send teams in to work on your project rather than just a few people for a longer time.

These rules, like all new rules, will take a while to get settled. The final version may change some of these details. It is to your benefit to keep informed. Your forestland is a TREASURE and you need to preserve its value. ♣



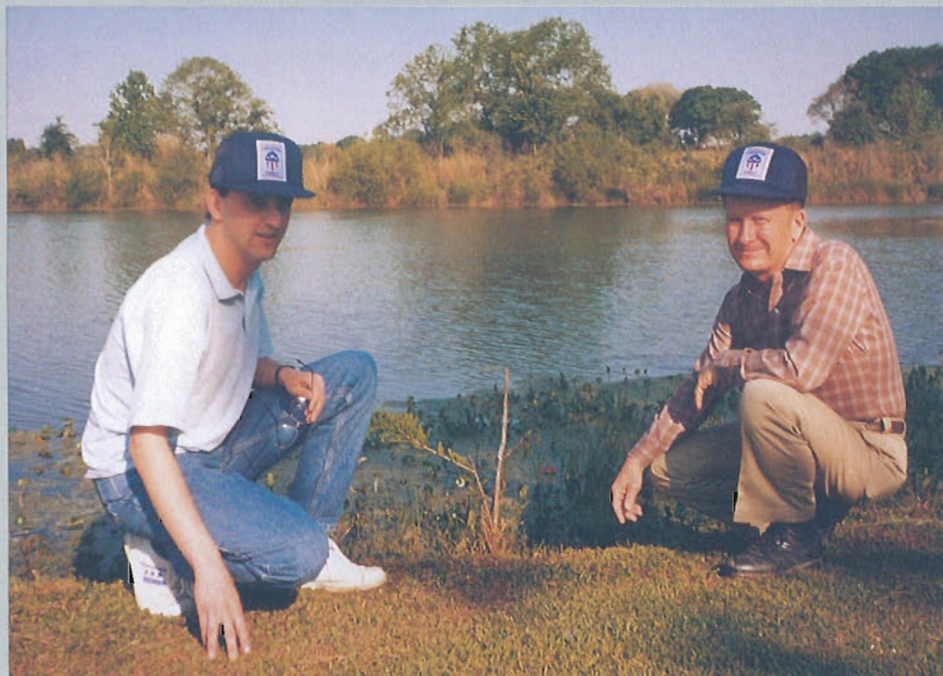
# YOU Ought To Be In Pictures!

Jan Spijkerboer, a forestry exchange student from Holland, spent approximately five weeks in Alabama during April and May. Several students were involved in the tour, however, Jan was the only forester. The tour included visits to Troy, Enterprise, Dothan, Opelika, Auburn, Montgomery, Selma, Andalusia, Brewton, Mobile, Fairhope, and Foley.

Sponsored by the Rotary Foundation, the Group Study Exchange Program is designed to provide opportunities for young business and professional men to study another country, its people, and institutions and to further international understanding.

Jan graduated from the College for Forestry, Water and Soil Management with a degree in Rural Development and Forestry. He is currently employed by the National Forest Service as project manager of forestry and natural resources in the Province of Utrecht.

Our lives are richer for the time you spent in our state, Jan. You're always welcome! ♣



Jan Spijkerboer (left) visited with TREASURE Forest owner James Hughes (right) in Houston County.

# Wood Ducks and Beaver Ponds

by DAVID HAYDEN

**T**HE WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) is one of the most beautiful species in North America. It occurs throughout Alabama during all periods of the year and is the only duck species to breed within the state in any significant numbers. Many people enjoy the wood duck for several different reasons, including hunting and viewing.

Another wildlife species that contributes greatly to wood duck habitat is the beaver. This mammal is not appreciated by everyone primarily due to the damage done to timber. However, ponds created by beavers provide excellent habitat for wood ducks. With some effort by man, the ponds may be very beneficial to other waterfowl as well.

Wood ducks are cavity-nesters. Tree cavities often develop in hardwood trees that are typical of the small drainages where beavers construct dams. Frequently, flooded timber dies and additional cavities develop in the dead snags. The combination of scattered dead timber, some open water, some shrubs and some emergent aquatic plants provides excellent habitat for wood ducks.

Several management practices may be employed to encourage wood duck use. Nesting structures can be added if few natural cavities are available. Structures should be erected on posts with a predator guard in place, otherwise the wood duck structure can become a "death trap" for the hen, young and/or eggs as a result of raccoons, snakes and other predators. Structures should not be placed in any area without a predator guard. Wood ducks normally return to their birthplace to reproduce the following year.

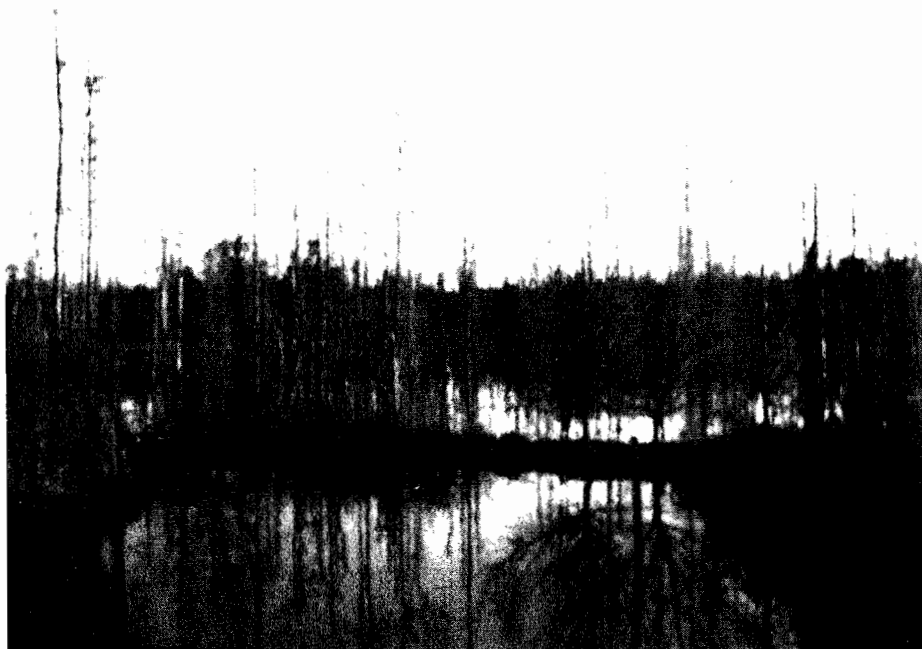
Another management practice very beneficial to wood ducks is manipulating the water level and, thereby, the vegetation. After reproduction is completed in early summer and the young are flying, the beaver dam can be broken and a three-log structure placed through the dam to prevent the beaver from reflooding the area. The drained pond can then be seeded with a small grain, such as Japanese millet. In the fall, the three-log structure can be removed to allow the beaver to reconstruct the dam. When the pond is flooded, an excellent food source is available for wood ducks as well as any migrants that may be in the area.

Instead of planting a grain crop, the drained pond could be allowed to revegetate

naturally, if the resulting vegetation would be desirable to waterfowl. Many plant species, such as grasses and sedges, are very worthwhile for waterfowl. Time of draining and the available seed source are extremely important when considering management for native plants.

Beaver ponds and wood ducks go hand-in-

hand. Many techniques to improve the habitat for wood ducks can be used. Professional advice may be very beneficial to the landowner and for the resource. For additional information, contact the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife Section, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130. ♣



**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**FIFTH ALABAMA LANDOWNER AND TREASURE FOREST CONFERENCE**  
**CIVIC CENTER - MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - AUGUST 12-13, 1988**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print)

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
(list names of all attendees)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY WHERE YOU OWN LAND \_\_\_\_\_

(Only one county please; if you own land in more than one county, list the county in which you own the majority of your land.)

**CATEGORY OF PARTICIPANT (Check only one)**

_____ TREASURE FOREST LANDOWNER	_____ PRIVATE FOREST INDUSTRY
_____ TREASURE FOREST CREED SIGNER	_____ LANDOWNER
_____ TREE FARM MEMBER	_____ OTHER _____ (SPECIFY)
_____ AGENCY EMPLOYEE*	

\*Employees of government agencies that are members of the Forestry Planning Committee. If you are a government agency employee and a landowner, check *only* the Agency Employee category.

**CHECK APPROPRIATE CHOICES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the banquet on Friday night.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the barbecue lunch on Saturday.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children will attend meeting and banquet. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I need \_\_\_\_\_ additional banquet tickets at \$15 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I need \_\_\_\_\_ additional barbecue tickets at \$10 each.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend only the meeting on Friday. (Registration \$10)

Return Only the Top Portion

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**REGISTRATION FEE**

There will be a \$30 pre-registration fee. Registration at the door and late registration will be \$35. The registration fee covers the cost of renting the facility, a banquet dinner, and a barbecue lunch. The registration fee for youth (ages 6-14) is \$5 per child. This includes cost of activities and the youth's banquet and barbecue lunch. The registration fee for the Friday meeting only is \$10.

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

THE PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 29. YOUR REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 29. AFTER THIS DATE YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE CONSIDERED AS LATE REGISTRATION. THIS IS THE ONLY NOTIFICATION YOU WILL RECEIVE REGARDING REGISTRATION.

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:**

MRS. MELANIE CURRY  
ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION  
513 MADISON AVENUE  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130

A tentative program and information on hotel/motel accommodations will be mailed to each person who registers.

# Fifth Alabama Landowner and TREASURE FOREST Conference



**A**FAMILY SPIRIT IS THE OVERTONE of the Fifth Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference as we center our attention on the "Family Forest."

This year's conference will be held in Montgomery at the Civic Center on August 12-13. An exhibit hall will be open at 10 a.m. on the 12th to give you a look at new equipment, chemicals, and techniques provided by participating vendors. The program will begin at 2 p.m. on the 12th with presentations on timber harvesting and wildlife management. On the evening of the 12th there will be a TREASURE Forest awards ceremony and banquet. Saturday, the 13th, there will be a special forestry tour on a landowner's property in Macon County

to show firsthand applications of timber harvesting and wildlife management. Lunch will be served on this tour.

We hope that entire families will join this year's festivities designed for everyone age 6 and up! Youth (ages 6-14) will be treated to exciting events designed just for them. Even a special "banquet" is being prepared for their entertainment while adults enjoy a TREASURE Forest awards ceremony.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. The program begins promptly at 2 p.m. The pre-registration fee is \$30 and registration at the door is \$35.

Gather up the whole family—Mama, Grandma, and all the younguns—and ya'll come!



Alabama's TREASURED Forests  
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Montgomery, AL 36130

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