



Alabama's **TREASURED** Forests

Spring · 1990

STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

by C.W. MOODY



For several years the Alabama Forestry Commission has been trying to achieve a stabilized source of funding for county operations. This source, which is equitable for all counties in Alabama, is in view. It takes the form of a constitutional amendment which will be voted on by all voters in the Alabama primary election on June 5. This constitutional amendment will authorize Alabama forest landowners to assess themselves **up to 20 cents** per forest acre for forestry and fire protection programs of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

If this constitutional amendment receives a favorable vote on June 5, a statewide forest landowner referendum will be conducted on July 17. The matter before forest landowners on July 17 will be, "Shall we vote to assess ourselves **10 cents** an acre on forestland for forestry and fire protection?" If the majority of landowners responds favorably statewide, then the 10 cents per acre assessment will be collected at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Funds generated will be returned to the county operations of the Alabama Forestry Commission to serve forest landowner needs and protect the forests and rural communities from wildfires.

As a matter of information, 39 counties already have some form of forest acreage assessment. Those with 10 cents an acre will see no change, but all other counties will be assessed at 10 cents per forest acre, with the exception of Cullman County which will remain at its current 15 cents an acre.

I believe this is the kind of measure that TREASURE Forest owners will support. I hope so because I feel that it will be good for our current forestland owners as well as those generations of Alabamians who will follow us. Vote "yes" on both days and encourage your friends and acquaintances to do the same.

Sincerely,

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

C. W. Moody
State Forester

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

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Cover Photo: This white poplar in Fayette County has been recognized as a champion tree. Circumference: 93", Height: 58', Crown Spread: 50.5'. For more about the Champion Tree Program, see pages 20-21. Photo by Pat Waldrop.

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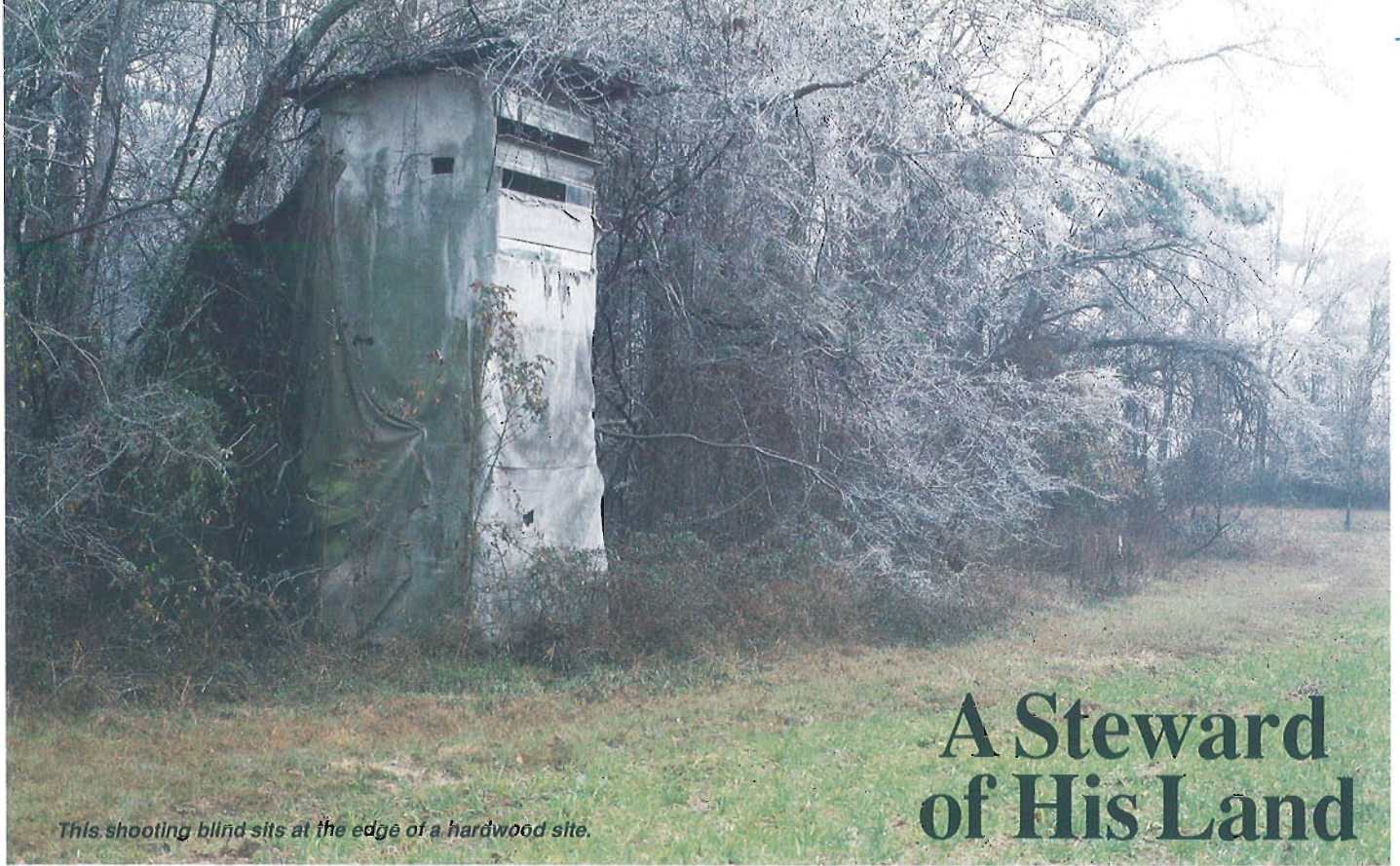
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This shooting blind sits at the edge of a hardwood site.

A Steward of His Land

by MELANIE CURRY, Information Specialist, Bay Minette

Land, which is now a TREASURE Forest, was once utilized as farmland. Hay, corn and cattle were the primary commodities. But, like a lot of farmers a few years ago, Gary Fortenberry decided to farm a little less and begin to use his land to grow trees.

“If I had planted this place in trees when I first came here,” Fortenberry says, “I would have made more of a net profit than I had raising cattle, corn and hay.”

Fortenberry’s TREASURE Forest is located in northern Choctaw County. He owns 1,200 acres consisting of mixed stands of hardwood and pine, pure pine sites and pine plantations.

Wildlife Management

As a TREASURE Forest landowner Fortenberry manages his forestland primarily for wildlife, and with the available hardwoods and the creek on his property he has a prime location for this practice. Deer, turkey and quail are abundant throughout his place.

Fortenberry gives some of the credit for his deer population to the Wildlife Management Program sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

“I’ve seen a tremendous increase in the growth of deer since participating in the deer management program,” says Fortenberry. He was the first in Choctaw County to participate in the program and soon the word spread and other landowners began to follow his wildlife management techniques.

He was one of the pioneers in establishing winter food plots for wildlife. Since he first began this practice he has set aside approximately 85 acres for this purpose. The plots are strategically placed approximately one mile apart throughout his property.

Hunting on the Fortenberry place is mostly by invitation for close friends and relatives, but some of his land is leased to a hunting club from Fairhope, Ala.

To keep a check on wildlife populations and quality, detailed records are kept of harvested game. Gary uses the services of a wildlife biologist to analyze these records and to set up his wildlife management plans.

As an avid hunter and lover of wildlife, Fortenberry is always making improvements for the benefit of wildlife. “I feel when you take something out, you need to put something back in return.” He has planted hardwoods, grasses, clovers, legumes,

and other nut and fruit bearing trees to provide food and cover for wildlife. “Even after I’m gone the wildlife will continue to benefit from these hardwoods,” he said.

Approximately 75 acres of pasture and hayland have been planted in fruit or nut producing hardwoods. Fortenberry has hand planted each of these hardwood seedlings. Some of the species that can be found include sawtooth oak, chinkapin oak, live oak, water oak, overcup oak, willow oak, pecan, almond, Japanese pear, Bradford pear, hazelnut, Japanese and Chinese chestnut, autumn olive, and several varieties of crabapples.

His challenge to visitors is to name a nut or fruit bearing tree that he *doesn’t* have on his property. In addition to the pear trees, strawberry trees are planted so deer can have a desert after their meal on acorns, legumes and grasses.

Fortenberry takes advantage of every inch of his forest and works with others to get the maximum return from his efforts. Through an agreement with the power company, he maintains the right-of-way beneath the power lines that stretch through his property. This area serves as a feeding ground for turkey and other wildlife.

Working with the SCS he has planted autumn olive on an experimental basis. Patches of *Lespedeza bicolor* and *Lespedeza thunbergii* can also be found along these power lines.

Another idea Gary Fortenberry believes in is to utilize what already exists as much as possible. This is evident in a pine plantation that was established. Mature cedar trees were left to provide shelter and food for wildlife. "The cedars provide berries and cover for non-game birds and they also provide an effective windbreak," Fortenberry says.

Maintenance of his young hardwoods is a very important job to Fortenberry. He shapes and prunes the young trees and applies herbicide to control unwanted vegetation.

His trees thrive from all this attention, and he receives a great deal of personal satisfaction when he sees the results of his hard work. He takes much pride in the fact that while pruning his trees one day he discovered that his four-year-old Spanish oaks were covered with acorns!

Timber Production

Wildlife management is his number one priority. But as Fortenberry says, through TREASURE Forest "you can have your cake and eat it too." His secondary objective is timber production.

Hillsides and marginal cropland have been planted in pines. His love for wildlife can still be seen in his pine plantations. Fortenberry explains how he has integrated wildlife management into his pine plantations. "Every other row I've planted sawtooth oak. On the borders of all my fields I've planted *Lespedeza bicolor* for quail," he said. "Planting pines on the hillsides helps control erosion."

Because of his efforts in timber production, Fortenberry is also recognized as a Tree Farmer. To ensure that he gets the most from his forestland, Fortenberry places a great deal of emphasis on planning.

Pre-harvest planning is an important aspect of forest management according to Fortenberry. Before a single tree is cut there is a plan in place to regenerate the area.

Working with his consulting forester—Lamar Ward, of S&W Forest Services in York, Ala.—Fortenberry analyzes the harvest and knows exactly what will be done when the harvesting is complete.

Due to some damage by Southern Pine Beetles, Fortenberry utilized the Alabama Forestry Commission's portable sawmill and salvaged some of his damaged timber. The lumber produced from this salvaging project will be used to build a walk-in cooler. "I've always wanted a nice place to dress game and have it large enough to have everything from my saw to my cuber handy," says Fortenberry.

Fortenberry is in the process of having soil tests completed to decide just where the best areas to plant hardwoods are. He has plans to plant over 10,000 Nuttall seedlings. One reason for planting hardwoods in this area is that James River Corporation has a seed orchard across the road from his property. He has to be careful that his forest management practices don't interfere with their operation. The Nuttall site will serve as a cross pollination buffer zone for a young loblolly shelterwood stand and the seed orchard.

According to Fortenberry, another reason to consider planting hardwoods is that "your good hardwood log will bring you more money than pine." He became interested in the Nuttall after reading an article on the hardwood in *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine.

Firebreaks were plowed last fall to separate his pine stands from his hardwood sites so prescribed burning can help the regeneration efforts of his shelterwood stand.

Improvements have been made to hardwood stands by removing scrub hardwoods. Through this thinning the quality hardwoods will have room to grow and become hardy timber-producing trees.

A box built on a stand in the pond provides a haven for wood ducks.



Fortenberry sees his timber as an investment which, if managed properly, can be tapped when necessary. As Fortenberry says, "Different age stands is the way to go for the small landowner. If I had to, I could go in there tomorrow and have a timber sale. You can have income coming in when you need it."

Protection of Resources

Fortenberry believes that good stewardship involves more than timber and wildlife, but that it also carries the responsibility of caring for all natural resources.

On Gary Fortenberry's property, much emphasis is placed on ensuring that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are followed during harvesting operations. He personally keeps a watchful eye on the harvesting work and ensures that the harvester respects BMP guidelines. He places much of his attention on ensuring Streamside Management Zones are left intact along creeks and ponds.

Personal Enjoyment

The natural beauty of his forestland is a benefit which is not easily measured. As Fortenberry believes, "A walk through the woods is often better than any medicine."

Aesthetics and recreation were considered when a fishing pond was added to his property. He designed the pond, which features earthen piers and a curved dam that provides more shallow water for breeding fish. One of his current projects is the construction of stands in the pond for wood duck boxes. With the boxes built on a stand, ducks will have a safe haven for their eggs.

Kintabish Creek runs through the heart of his property and provides excellent fishing opportunities for family and friends. Roads lead to the deep holes of the creek which are known as good fishing spots. Fortenberry says that on one fishing outing with his family over 27 catfish were caught.

Since Fortenberry first heard of the TREASURE Forest program years ago from an SCS representative, he has worked to make his forestland an asset for himself and for future generations.

Gary Fortenberry's concept on forest management is one that any landowner can follow. "We're just passing through, stewards of the land; it is our responsibility to leave it better than when we found it." ♣

Gary Fortenberry began establishing his TREASURE Forest 31 years ago when, after completing college, he moved to Choctaw County and purchased 100 acres from his father-in-law.

Originally from Irondale, Ala., he attended the University of Alabama where he met his wife, Shirley. After graduation Gary and Shirley decided to move to Choctaw County—Shirley's home county.

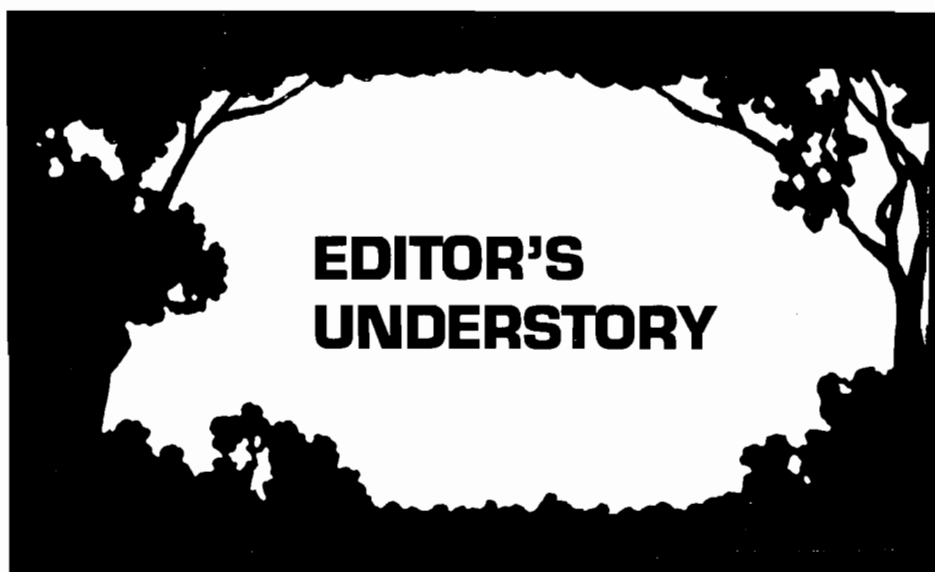
Over the years he obtained more acres and gradually became more interested in forestry.

He became a Tree Farm member in 1978 and in 1980 he was certified as the third TREASURE Forest landowner in Choctaw County.

According to Fortenberry, "To be successful in forestry you have got to love wildlife, trees and nature." And successful he is.

He is a leader in the forestry community of Choctaw County. In 1980 he hosted the Choctaw County Forest Landowner Tour. Currently, Fortenberry is vice chairman of the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District's Wildlife Committee, serves on the wildlife committee of the Tenn-Tom RC&D Committee, and is a member of both the Choctaw County Forestry Planning Committee and the Wild Turkey Federation.

My first visit to his TREASURE Forest was in the summer of 1989



by MELANIE CURRY, Information Specialist, Bay Minette

when he was interviewed as the district winner for a video recognizing the 1989 District Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Winners. At lunch that day, the video crew and I enjoyed a delicious meal Shirley and daughter Scarlet had prepared. As we were eating our lunch, Gary remarked that we were really munching on a TREASURE Forest meal because practically everything we were eating had been raised right there on his farm.

Working with him that day shooting

the video I couldn't help but notice his excitement when he began to talk about forestry and the importance of being a good steward of the land.

Gary was named the 1989 Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest State Winner at the Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference in Montgomery in August, 1989.

He gives some of the credit for being named the state winner to Greg Kelsoe, who was at the time productivity forester in Choctaw County. He is now the AFC's county supervisor in Jefferson County. "Greg is the one who persuaded me to accept the Helene Mosley nomination," Fortenberry says.

In addition to the Helene Mosley Awards, Gary received the Soil Conservation Society of America's award for Exemplary Work in Soil Conservation and Wildlife Management in 1988.

Talking with Gary you can clearly see that he is very much concerned with the proper management of his forest. After a tour of his TREASURE Forest you can't help but notice the work that is put into ensuring quality improvements are made.

Shift work at James River allows him time to work on his forest. "Shift work gives me the flexibility I need to get things done around here."

After my visit I thought about Gary and his TREASURE Forest. I was thankful we have people like him working with the forest to make a positive contribution to the environment. ♣



Last year the Fortenberry's Christmas tree was cut from their TREASURE Forest.

The Path to TREASURE Forest

by EDWARD MCCULLERS, TREASURE Forest Landowner

It's been 2½ years now since I won the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award and I've had some time to reflect back and think about how I was able to accomplish this milestone. These may not be all the reasons, but I believe anyone taking these ideals can better their own TREASURE Forest and even assist a neighbor in becoming a TREASURE Forest landowner.

Attitude: Attitude is probably the most important part of being a TREASURE forest landowner. Your attitude will be unique among other landowners. For you will not only care about the trees on your land, but also what lives in, on, and around each one. You will enjoy just knowing that you are improving what God has put man in charge of. Whether it's the timber, wildlife, soil, water, or air quality, it should be left better for the next generation.

Education: Whether or not it is one of your goals, education will be one of the greatest treasures you will receive. It may be your education of new or improved forestry techniques, knowledge of new wildlife plant food or new soil protection procedures. The most exciting education may come by more subtle means, like watching young deer feed early in the morning, or a pair of bluebirds nesting and raising their young. Other lessons may come from your children or grandchildren asking those innocent questions that children just demand answers to.

When you are out enjoying your TREASURE Forest you will become aware of thousands of little things that make up our life—our world. Some people riding by may just notice green trees, but when you walk slowly over your TREASURE Forest, you will notice small insects and wildflowers too numerous to mention. I, for one, would like to see an E in TREASURE used for education in the acronym.

Help from Agencies: There are but a few people with all of the knowledge, resources or money to properly create a TREASURE Forest. All of us need help. The agencies that make up the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee are truly unique. By cooperating

together as they do, they have created for us in Alabama a rather special program. All of their help is free; to use some of the very best minds in the country all you have to do is ask. I've used the strengths of all of these agencies on my land, and this is how I gained TREASURE Forest status as quickly as I did. You should explain to them your goals and ideas and from that they will assist you in making a long-range plan to fit your acreage, location, and monetary resources.

Because all goals and acreages are different, no two TREASURE Forests will ever be the same. So don't worry if yours is not as fancy or as large as the one down the road. What is important is that you truly believe in what you have. All of the agencies will work with you to create your own special TREASURE. Many times these agencies sponsor field days, short courses, and county or district tours. By attending these you will be increasing your education, seeing the latest in new ideas, and using your tax dollars wisely.

Investments: For many years I've heard from the general public that timber is a slow, poor way to make a living. Many people must believe this, because so few plant or replant land after a harvest.

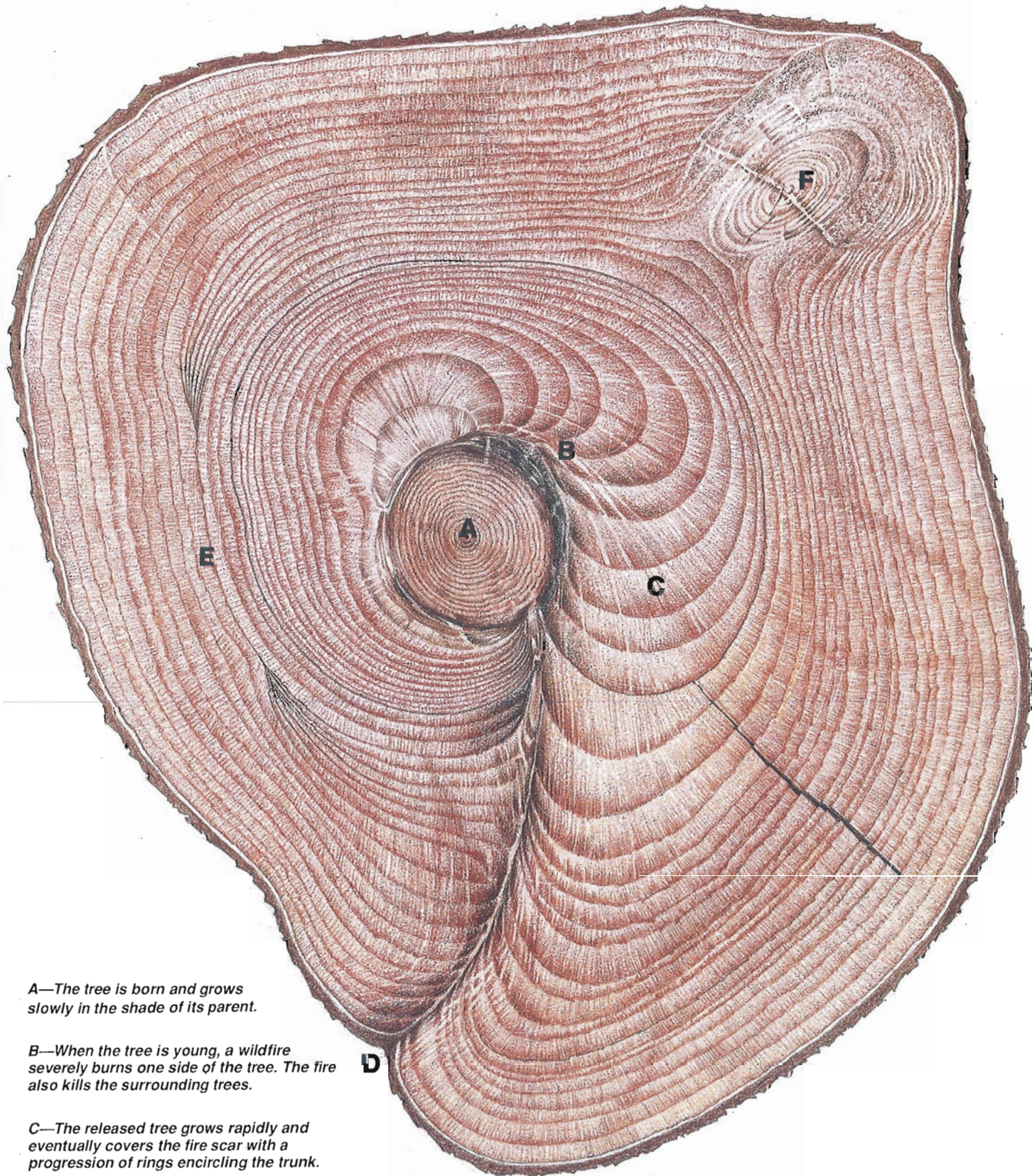
By taking the attitude that every acre could or should be paying for itself, you will soon see how a TREASURE Forest can increase your income. By using some of the latest chemical technology, you can increase the growth rate of timber throughout its cutting cycle, thereby giving you more timber to cut sooner. Roads and/or firelanes throughout the property will allow you to watch for diseases and insects. By greening these areas in the winter and summer, wildlife will increase and hunting leases could become a rather good source of income while you are waiting on the first timber thinning. Also, these areas could provide access for firefighting equipment. By personally doing all the work, or as much of the work on small acreages and projects as you can, you will save money and make you and your family feel much closer to the TREASURE.

Other investment returns will also come the first year. Those are clean water, fresh air, a greater number as well as different species of songbirds, wildflowers, recreational activities, and pride in yourself and your community. These kinds of investments may not be what you started out to receive, but may add many hours of enjoyment, pleasure and satisfaction. You tell me how these returns can be measured!

Never Think It's Finished: There are many things in life that once we do them, they're finished. They can never change. You, your family and community may have to live with the outcome for many years. I believe a TREASURE Forest is just the opposite. It will have to change to keep its TREASURE Forest status. It is not a perpetual award, but one that has to be constantly worked on by its caretakers to continue.

Better management practices must be kept up with—burning, firelanes, roads, boundary lines, bluebird houses, wildlife habitat, and education, to name just a few. At any time you quit doing these little things, your TREASURE Forest will quickly turn into another patch of pines or hardwoods. A TREASURE is too valuable to give up. The dictionary defines treasure as the following: "wealth of any kind or in any form, something of great worth or value, a collection of precious things." An Alabama TREASURE Forest is all of these and more. A TREASURE Forest is not just for now, but for our children and all future caretakers of this world. For many years, this state will reap the benefits from our TREASURES, planning and accomplishments. Let's leave it better than when we found it.

This program has been extremely successful. Its goals and simplicity are so unique that legislation is pending before Congress for a National Stewardship Program. It will be wonderful to know that this program originated here in Alabama. One of our goals should be to increase the number of TREASURE Forests in our state. But I caution you—let's keep the quality of new members high; let's always keep it a very special program. ♠



A—The tree is born and grows slowly in the shade of its parent.

B—When the tree is young, a wildfire severely burns one side of the tree. The fire also kills the surrounding trees.

C—The released tree grows rapidly and eventually covers the fire scar with a progression of rings encircling the trunk.

D—The healed fire scar shows where the healing growth occurred.

D

E—Another tree grows on this side, its crown and roots taking the water and sunlight that the tree needs. The tree slows its growth on this side until the competition is removed.

F—A knot is the core of a branch that grew at this site. Eventually the tree grows around the branch stub.

ILLUSTRATION BY RAY MAHER

This illustration first appeared in Country Journal magazine.

History Writers of the Forest

by L. LOUIS HYMAN, Chief, Forest Information

Trees are amazing creatures! With very little resources they can grow to tremendous sizes and form the architecture of the forest. "From a small acorn, a mighty oak once grew." Even more amazing is the life history of our Southern Pines. Pines begin life as a small seed, less than $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ounce, yet they can grow to dominate the forest, reaching over 120 feet in height and weighing over two tons.

As trees grow they enrich the TREASURE of the Forest. Trees serve as homes to many animals. Their root mat protects the soil and cleans water. The leaves filter dust, clean and humidify the air. All of these benefits grow like magic along with the trees.

All plant growth, in fact all life on earth, is fueled by magic. Trees are the "alchemists of the forest." Like the alchemists of old, who tried to turn lead into gold, trees are able to make much from nothing. Their secret is **photosynthesis**, a process that makes sugar out of thin air and water.

In photosynthesis, the green leaves absorb energy from sunlight, and use that power to combine carbon dioxide and water to form glucose, a simple sugar. The process also produces oxygen, which the plant releases into the air. The sugar is combined with minerals to form starches, proteins, and most importantly, cellulose, the building block of wood.

One of the key factors needed for this magic process is sunlight. When many plants crowd together, they shade each other, reducing the sunlight, hence reducing the food available for each plant. So plants and trees began to race, for the tallest tree gets the most light and the most food.

This growth is not easy, and many trees that start out do not make it to maturity. Within each tree is a record of that struggle, the tree's memory. These memories are locked into the tree's growth rings.

The stem of a tree is best seen as a filled soda straw. In reality the only living tissue in a tree stem is a very thin, long cone that is only a few cells thin. This sheath of tissue that surrounds the stem is called the **cambium**.

The cambium is made up of rapidly growing and dividing cells.

The cells divide to form **phloem** cells and **xylem** cells. Phloem cells form the inner bark of the tree, and actively transport the sugar formed in the leaves to other parts of the tree and the roots. Xylem cells form the sapwood, where they carry water and minerals from the roots to the leaves. Both of these cells are short-lived. When they die, the cell wall remains and is seen as the bark or the wood of the tree.

The xylem or wood cells are produced by the cambium throughout the growing season, but the type of

wood cell varies based on the time of year. In the spring, the tree puts its major effort into new top growth and replacing leaves. As a result, the wood cells produced are thin-walled. These cells are usually referred to as **springwood**.

Later, during the summer, this top growth slows down and the tree begins maximum production of sugar. Wood cells produced then have thicker walls (**summerwood**) and are sometimes smaller than the springwood cells. When all growing stops in the winter, one light ring of wood has been produced next to a dark one. Together, the two bands make up one annual ring.

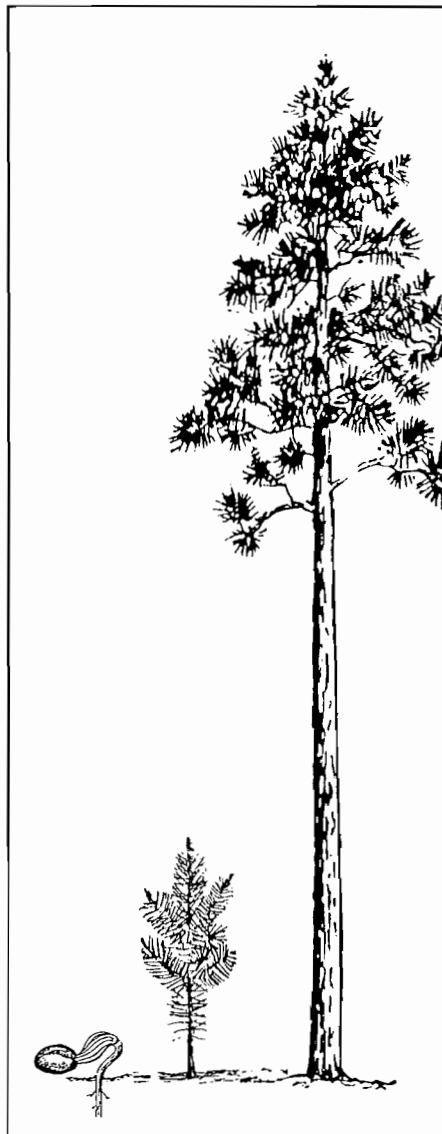
The width of each year's annual ring will vary based on several environmental factors. Soil moisture, availability of sunlight, shading or crowding from other trees, forest fires, and insect or animal damage all impact on how well a tree will grow in a year. Favorable conditions produce wide growth rings, poor conditions produce thin rings.

These growth rings record the history of the forest as seen by that tree. By looking at a cross section of a tree, one can trace events that have occurred and even date them. The rings can clearly show when the tree was released from being shaded, either by a natural event or a thinning. They also record any traumas the tree has suffered, such as fire, breakage, or bark damage. Drought years are clearly marked, as well as the good years when the tree reached for maximum growth.

How can you learn the history of a tree? Many times the tree shares its memory only after it's gone. Then the rings can be examined as they cross the stump. Sometimes the lessons of the tree's history comes too late to help it.

Foresters have a way to tap the tree's memory without cutting. By using a tool called an increment borer, which resembles a hollow drill bit, a pencil sized core of wood can be drawn from the tree, and the growth rings examined.

Trees are unique TREASURES. Each of them sits patiently as it records the history of the forest. ♣



WHITE-TAILED DEER RESEARCH CONTINUES AT AUBURN

by DR. KEITH CAUSEY, Auburn University

A recent survey conducted by faculty and students at Auburn University determined that sport hunting currently pumps more than \$600 million into Alabama's annual economy. We believe these rather astounding figures are an accurate reflection of the overall importance of sport hunting to our state. Deer and turkey hunting accounted for most of the expenditures detailed in this study.

Auburn University's Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station recognize the economic importance of our wildlife resource and have become increasingly aware of the importance, economic and otherwise, of our white-tailed deer populations. Public interest and demand is greater than ever before for information about all aspects of the biology, ecology and management of this species. Accordingly we are deeply committed and very actively involved in numerous studies relating to ecology and management of Alabama's white-tailed deer.

Body and Antler Growth

Hunters have noted a general decline in overall body size and antler mass of deer in many areas of Alabama. This has led some to assume Alabama's deer are "genetically inferior." To study the body growth and antler growth potential of Alabama white-tailed deer we collected a random sample of 25 buck fawns from throughout Alabama and raised them in captivity. They were fed optimum rations. As yearlings (16 months of age) they weighed an average of 128 pounds with antlers averaging four points, ranging from "spikes" to eight points. At the age of three they averaged 214 pounds, with the smallest weighing 185 and the largest weighing 240 pounds. Eight points was the most common antler configuration (seven of 12) with two six-pointers, one nine-pointer and two 11-pointers. This study also involves measuring

body and antler growth in Alabama bucks that began as "spikes" their first year. Additionally we are studying overall changes that occur in Alabama white-tailed deer when several generations have had access to abundant high-quality foods. Results from these studies will be available in the not too distant future.

Mineral Supplements

Currently we are studying effects of mineral supplements on body and antler growth in captive Alabama deer. Our first year's data showed no significant difference in either body weight or antler mass between the mineral-fed bucks and the control group. This study is continuing.

Forage Crops

Dozens of warm season and cool season forage crops planted for deer are being evaluated for performance, nutritional content and preference as foods by wild and captive deer. Carefully controlled and statistically valid methods are being used to determine which combinations of warm and cool season plants may be used to best advantage by Alabama landowners interested in planting forage crops for deer management purposes. Tests will determine: 1) which plants are used most by deer when they have a wide variety of choices; 2) the most productive plants, and 3) the most nutritive forages. Of course a major concern is cost-effectiveness and identifying crops that can be expected to perform adequately over a wide range of conditions with minimum attention from the planter. These studies are progressing well and should produce very interesting results and recommendations.

Other Studies

In addition to the previously mentioned studies, we are also conducting several other studies related to white-

tailed deer biology and management. These studies include precise tooth eruption aging techniques for determining the age of deer by month through two years of age instead of the "gross" aging categories called "fawns" or 1.5 year-olds. This technique will open the door for other important studies in the future.

Other studies underway include:

- 1) effects of fawning date on yearling body and antler performance;
- 2) female contribution to body and antler size in male offspring;
- 3) nutritional quality of diets of wild deer in Alabama coastal plain habitats;
- 4) liming and fertilizer effects on quality and quantity of natural deer foods;
- 5) impact of deer on regeneration of timber stands;
- 6) deer in the diet of coyotes in Alabama; and
- 7) a study of gene flow in a population of "northern" deer restocked with a substantial number of native Alabama white-tails.

The deer research program at Auburn is very active. Many deer-related research projects are cooperative efforts involving Auburn University's Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, and private companies, organizations and individuals. Research funds have been a limiting factor and external funding sources for research involving management of resident game animals including white-tailed deer have, and will continue to be, quite limited. Our deer research program is currently operating near its limit given the availability of operating funds.

We have enjoyed and appreciated the grants, contributions, and gifts of materials and supplies for our deer research program from various agencies, private companies and individuals. We believe we have put these various forms of support to good use and we look forward to making our reports available to Alabamians and all other interested people. ♣

State Soil and Water Conservation Committee

by STEVE CAUTHEN, Soil and Water Conservation Committee
and DAVID HOGE, Alabama Forestry Commission

Editor's note: The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee is comprised of 13 agencies having forestry responsibility at the state level. This is the first in a series of informative articles highlighting those agencies.

The farms, forests and grazing lands of Alabama are basic natural resources, the conservation of which is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of our state's people. Improper land use practices contribute to erosion caused by wind and water. The result is increased silting and sedimentation of stream channels, reservoirs, ditches and harbors, potential reduction in bottomland productivity, and the deterioration of soil fertilization. Concern over this many years ago led the state legislature to create the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

In close cooperation with the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts, the duty of the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee is to carry out preventive and control measures within each conservation district (county). This includes, but is not limited to, engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, changes in use of land, and other erosion control measures on lands owned or controlled by Alabama or any of its agencies with their consent and cooperation.

The State Soil and Water Conservation Committee also conducts surveys and research related to soil erosion and the preventative and control measures needed, publishes the results of these surveys and disseminates information concerning such preventative and control measures. These surveys and investigations lead to the development of comprehensive plans for the conservation of the state's soil resources. Technical assistance in these efforts is provided to the State Committee and each of the conservation districts, primarily by the Soil Conservation Ser-

vice of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Landowner education and assistance is provided through numerous mailings, publications and demonstration projects. In addition to the federal cost-share programs, a state funded program is administered by the Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Department Commission. It provides financial assistance to landowners addressing soil erosion and water quality problems or engaging in forestry improvement practices.

The funds to support this program are legislatively appropriated to the Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC). The AACDC, through the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, allocates the funding to the 67 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These funds can only be used to pay the costs of installing soil and water conservation practices which have been determined to be eligible for assistance by the local conservation district. Cost-share rates are a maximum of \$3,500 or 60 percent of the cost of the practice, whichever is less. Technical assistance for the state cost-share program is provided by the Soil Conservation Service and the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Recently, upon approval of the State Committee and the AACDC, an endowment fund was created to provide additional financial assistance to land users engaging in soil and water conservation practices. The Alabama Agricultural Conservation Foundation is currently soliciting funds to support this effort.

For more information about the State Committee, the cost-share program or the endowment fund, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office or the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Room 203 Richard Beard Building, 1445 Federal Drive, Post Office Box 3336, Montgomery, Alabama 36193; (205) 242-2620. ♣



“Make a promise to the earth”

People often ask me what they can do to help the environment. Well, there's a simple thing that each one of us can do. Plant a tree.

When you plant a tree, you're making a positive contribution to your community, to our country, and to the whole world. You make life better for your children and for the future.

Make a promise to the earth. Join me and plant a tree.

For your free brochure, write: Trees for America, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410.



John Denver for
 **The National Arbor Day Foundation**

Cities Recognized for Tree Programs

by NEIL LETSON, State Urban Forestry Coordinator

The trends are startling. Urban development is expanding in America by 1.3 million acres a year. Greater amounts of rural forests are being converted into subdivisions and shopping centers than ever before. A recent survey of 20 national cities revealed that in one-third of them, only one tree is planted for every eight removed. And it is estimated that an average community spends less than one-third the amount necessary for an effective community tree program.

Recent events demonstrate a broad concern about these and other trends. President Bush confirmed his interest by announcing his commitment for the nation to undertake a major tree planting initiative up to the year 2000. The House of Representatives recently passed the "Urban and Community Forestry Act of 1989," which would unleash major federal support of state and local urban forestry programs. The Senate is currently processing a companion bill.

Alabama, too, has witnessed an urban forestry momentum. Citizens are planting trees around their homes and businesses in increasing numbers. Communities are organizing local tree programs with state government support. A new leadership group called the Alabama Urban Forestry Association has emerged.

Yet, while the nation and the state seem poised for a new urban forestry thrust, there is one tree program that has been around since 1976. It has quietly produced a nationwide network of organized community tree programs. The program is Tree City USA and is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"Tree City USA is a powerful force for the promotion of tree care and urban forestry," says John Rosenow, executive director of the Foundation. "Over 1,000 communities now fly the flag of membership, a composite area



that is home to some 60 million Americans."

Tree City USA began as a project to help celebrate the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. Both the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service were original co-sponsors. The National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have since given their endorsement.

The purpose of the program is to recognize communities who have active community tree programs in place. "An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement . . . a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years," Rosenow said. "The Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement."

Communities wanting to attain Tree City USA status find they must meet four standards, regardless of city size. Standard one requires the community to establish a tree board or department. In many American cities, up to one-half of the total tree population can be found on city property (street r-o-w,

and public grounds). Most urban forestry professionals recommend that city governments appoint a department, board, commission or other authority to be legally responsible for the care of these trees and spaces. Tree boards are normally appointed by the city council or government by ordinance to develop and administer a city tree plan. Larger communities often find that they can support a city forestry department with salaried employees.

Standard two requires a city to adopt a legal tree ordinance. The ordinance establishes the tree commission or department and then describes their duties and responsibilities.

"Ordinances reflect the values of a community, the values its residents believe are worth protecting to maintain their quality of life and an environment that is both safe and pleasant," said James Fazio, editor of the *Tree City USA Bulletin*. "The key to effectiveness is to write the ordinance simply, clearly and tailored to the needs of your community."

Standard three measures the city's activities. It requires there be a comprehensive program supported by an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. A comprehensive city tree program is one that includes provisions for planning, planting, maintenance, removal, and replacement.

"Many communities begin their program by taking an inventory of the trees growing on public property," according to Rosenow. "The inventory report should be an objective analysis of the present state of the urban forest with recommendations for future management."

The program requires each city to develop an annual work plan. The work plan usually spells out strategies for dealing with hazard trees, safety, pruning schedules, planting, young tree care, and pest management. Non-tree

care practices such as education and ordinances are also part of an annual work plan. Tree commissions usually serve in an advisory mode to qualified city employees or private contractors.

The final standard requires a community to observe Arbor Day. The city mayor should issue a proclamation and participate in a tree planting ceremony. Arbor Day activities by the city are simple, easy and fun to do.

Alabama has done very well with

the Tree City USA program. The State currently has 62 cities which have qualified. Each town must continue to meet the standards and be recertified on an annual basis.

“Tree City USA has been good for our State’s urban forestry program,” said C.W. Moody, state forester of Alabama. “Cities that meet these minimum standards now have the potential to build stronger tree programs which will leave a legacy for generations to come.” ♣



Trees can help break up the monotony of asphalt and concrete in parking lots.



Tree Commissions, like this one in Foley, often provide free seedlings to citizens.

Cities Currently Recognized as Tree City USAs by the National Arbor Day Foundation

City	Years in the Program
Abbeville	1
Albertville	1
Arab	1
Atmore	3
Auburn	6
Autaugaville	2
Bay Minette	5
Brent	3
Brewton	1
Brookwood	3
Camden	5
Cintroneille	1
Clanton	6
Cullman	2
Daphne	2
Demopolis	5
Eufaula	7
Evergreen	4
Fairhope	6
Flomaton	2
Florence	3
Foley	9
Fort Payne	3
Gainsville	2
Geneva	5
Greensboro	1
Greenville	4
Gulf Shores	5
Guntersville	3
Hamilton	1
Huntsville	3
Jemison	2
Lafayette	5
Leeds	6
Linden	7
Livingston	7
Loxley	7
Maplesville	2
Marion	2
Mobile	11
Monroeville	3
Montgomery	6
Moundville	4
Myrtlewood	1
Opelika	2
Orange Beach	1
Phenix City	5
Piedmont	1
Pine Hill	2
Prattville	7
Red Bay	3
Robertsdale	6
Samson	2
Scottsboro	5
Selma	8
Sheffield	1
Silverhill	8
Summerdale	6
Thomaston	5
Thorsby	2
Wetumpka	8
York	8

Total - 62 Tree Cities

Don't drop it on Alabama.

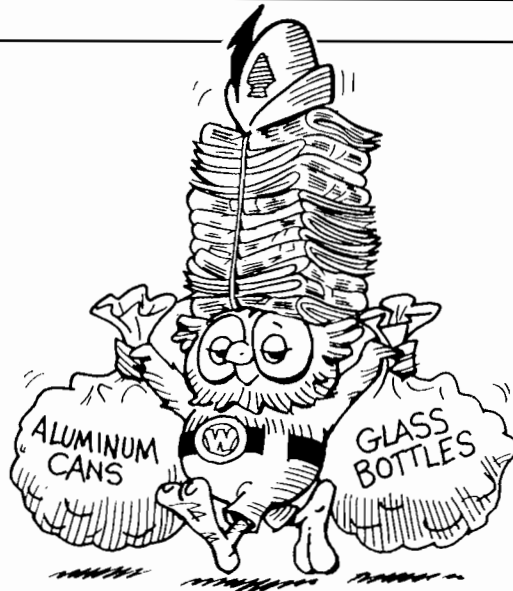
by SPENCER RYAN, Executive Vice President, Alabama PALS

Alabama's growing anti-litter group, People Against a Littered State (PALS), has unveiled a new campaign aimed at further reducing litter in our state. On Nov. 8, 1989, the kick-off celebration for the largest anti-litter and pride campaign in Alabama history was held in Montgomery.

The campaign is addressing litter issues by promoting public awareness, education, recycling, law enforcement and legislation concerning litter control. Two hundred billboards carrying the campaign message "Don't Drop It On Alabama" have been erected all over Alabama. In addition, television and radio public service announcements are airing all over the state. These PSAs also carry the message "Don't Drop it on Alabama," and feature Alabama celebrities Mark Herndon of the country music group Alabama, Auburn Coach Pat Dye, Mrs. Helen Hunt and law enforcement officials from various agencies.

The litter issue is of special interest to Mrs. Helen Hunt, who has stated that she endorses the campaign and supports the effort fully.

State Forester C.W. Moody has also been a driving force behind the anti-litter effort. The Alabama Forestry Commission is one of several agencies and businesses who are supporting PALS and their efforts to clean up the state. These agencies include the Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs, Alabama Power Company, Champion International, Waste Away, Chemi-



**Use your head.
Smart people recycle aluminum,
paper and glass.**

**Give A Hoot.
Don't Pollute.**

Forest Service-USDA



cal Waste Management and Waste Management, Inc., Russell Corporation, Gulf States Paper Co., Torchmark Corporation, SouthTrust Bank and ALFA, among others.

Mark Herndon is serving as the celebrity state spokesman for the campaign. He said he hopes that the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" campaign will be bigger and better than the "Don't Mess With Texas" campaign that is ongoing in the Lone Star state. Herndon will be a major source of inspiration for involving educational programs in Alabama school systems. The 200 plus people at the kickoff

ceremony in November were enthusiastic and excited about having a celebrity of Mr. Herndon's stature willing to give his time and efforts to this campaign.

Also unveiled at the ceremony was the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" theme song. Frank Lister, of the group Sequoyah, wrote the song for PALS. It will be played on radio stations as well as at educational programs during the next several years.

In addition to the billboards, PSAs and song, the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" logo will be displayed on 150 Waste Away trucks.

The first major event of the campaign will be the first annual "Don't Drop It On Alabama Spring Cleanup Day" to be held on April 21. This event will include many Alabama businesses, civic groups, state agencies, 25 PALS chapters, and others.

It is the hope of all participants that this cleanup will become the largest statewide cleanup day in the country. The event will be held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. A "Don't Drop It On Alabama" concert is in the planning stages for this event and will be coordinated by Larry Stevens of Montgomery radio station WHHY.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Alabamians to participate in an event that will make Alabama a better place to live, work, and raise a family. For more information on how you or your organization can become part of the cleanup day, please call Alabama PALS at 263-7737. ♣

A new phase of forest research and technology for the Alabama timber industry is currently being planted in the fertile soil of a small junior college campus in North Alabama.

Workers are preparing seed beds and seeds are being planted for the first crop of young pine and hardwood seedlings at the "Jack Hopper Experimental Tree Nursery" on the campus of Wallace State Junior College in Hanceville.

Named for Alabama Forestry Commission Commissioner and former Chairman Jack Hopper, the Experimental Tree Nursery will assist the landowners of Alabama and the state's forest industry by providing current research and technology on both pine and hardwood species. One of the primary functions of the nursery stock will be for research purposes to determine if seedlings grown in the northern sector of the state will survive and thrive better than if they were grown in South Alabama.

Representatives of Wallace State College, the Alabama Forestry Commission, and members of the Cullman County Legislative delegation officially broke ground and dedicated the one-of-a-kind nursery in November, 1989.

The nursery is a cooperative agreement between the AFC and Wallace State College, who will utilize students in the school's agri-business department for the day-to-day running of the nursery and the care of the seedlings grown there.

Construction on seed beds, access roads, and support buildings is currently underway on the 28-acre nursery, which is located on the southwest portion of the 183-acre campus. At this point, planting beds are ready except for the sand to be used in the beds. Bids for wells to supply water to the facility have been publicized, and containers for seedlings have been purchased.

Approximately one million bare-root loblolly pine seedlings will be grown the first year. In addition, approximately 200,000 pine seedlings and 50,000 hardwood seedlings have been planted in containers. The hardwood seedlings include oaks, maples, and dogwoods. The containerized seedlings are currently being raised in one of the school's greenhouses which was specifically set aside for that purpose. In the future, the nursery will also be involved in growing ornamental trees.

North Alabama Nursery is One of a Kind

by COLEEN VANSANT, Information Specialist, Birmingham

Forestry officials say the type of research to be conducted by the college and with college seedlings represents a milestone in science and technology for the forest industry.

The multi-faceted research to be conducted by Wallace State will primarily be geared toward comparative studies. Experiments will be conducted on pine and hardwood trees, and research on the growth and survival of Wallace State sprouted trees will be conducted across the state. Comparative studies will also be conducted on the survival and growth rates of containerized versus bare-root seedlings.

Officials with the college indicate that weather permitting, the nursery will be operating in full force this spring.

The cooperative agreement between the AFC and Wallace State will be financially beneficial to the college in that it will mean \$125,000 immediately, and \$50,000 per year for the next decade.

Wallace State College at Hanceville is the fastest growing junior college in the state, breaking the 4,000 student enrollment for the first time during the 1989 fall quarter. The college serves most of North Alabama, offering programs in academics, technical, and health programs. The college offers more health programs than any other two-year college in the state, and the technical program—including agri-business—is viewed by industry as "top quality." The college is already making preparations to host its 25th Anniversary in 1991.

A bill, currently being considered in this legislative session, would authorize a study to determine the feasibility of Wallace State becoming a four-year institution. The study would include research and findings for the college becoming an extension of Auburn University or the University of Alabama, as well as becoming an independent four-year institution. ♣



Representatives of Wallace State College, the Alabama Forestry Commission, and members of the Cullman County Legislative delegation man shovels for the official ground breaking and dedication of the state's first experimental tree nursery in North Alabama. Participants in the ground breaking are L-R: Richard Cumble, productivity division director for the Alabama Forestry Commission; Rep. Bill Bowling, State Forester C.W. Moody, Sen. Don Hale, Alabama Forestry Commissioner Jack Hopper, Wallace State College Agri-business Department Chairman Roy Ball; Rep. Tom Drake, and Wallace State College President James C. "Jake" Bailey.

LANDOWNERS

LEGISLATIVE
ALERT



NATIONAL



by TERRI BATES, Legislative Liaison, National Association of State Foresters

New meaning has been added to “America the Beautiful.” It is now the name of President George Bush’s ambitious new initiative, in which he proposes to plant one billion trees a year throughout the nation’s communities and rural areas over the next several years.

The initiative intends to provide an “environmental legacy for future generations, enhance existing natural and recreational resources and address the growing concern of carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere.” It includes not only a major nationwide tree planting program but also substantial expansion of federal land acquisitions, including a recommendation of \$20 million to begin the acquisition of 88,000 acres needed to mitigate environmental losses caused by the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project in Alabama and Mississippi.

The proposal calls for \$110 million to be spent for planting trees on economically marginal and environmentally sensitive agricultural cropland and pastureland and improving existing forests. Federal cost-sharing for establishment costs and technical assistance will be offered as incentives to private landowners to plant trees on rural lands and improve existing forests. The program reportedly will be modeled very much after two existing federal programs, the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). Southern states alone offer the potential of planting trees on an estimated 84 million acres and improving 17 million acres of forestland. The U.S.D.A. Forest Service will lead this initiative working through state foresters to build upon existing delivery systems for landowner assistance.

Sixty-five million dollars are proposed to plant 30 million trees annually in the nation’s 40,000 cities,

towns and communities. The Community Tree Planting Program is to be delivered partly through existing programs and partly through a new non-profit national foundation. The foundation will promote the program, mobilize the public, corporate and civic sectors to work cooperatively, solicit funds to assist communities, and encourage volunteerism in communities to plant trees. Funds raised by the foundation will be used to assist communities throughout the country pay the costs of site preparation, tree selection, planting and maintenance.

As with any other federally funded program, this one must be approved by Congress. The annual appropriations process is just beginning and it remains to be seen how this initiative will fare.

The President’s proposed budget for fiscal year 1991, delivered to Congress on January 29, is also favorable towards other forestry programs that provide assistance to private landowners. Although state and private lands were not targeted to receive traditional assistance for pest suppression and fire protection, several other U.S. Forest Service programs were funded at modest levels after years of being “zeroed” out by the Reagan Administration. Congress has always sustained these programs by “restoring” basic funding levels.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and the Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Service (ASCS), were also funded by the Administration at 1990 appropriated levels to help support the “America the Beautiful Program.”

Forestry issues are also receiving attention from another area. The 1990 Farm Bill is up for debate in Congress this year. Members from both the House and Senate are expressing inter-

est in establishing a “Forestry Title” which would go beyond current tree planting provisions provided by the conservation Reserve Program (CRP) founded under the Conservation Title of 1985 Farm Bill. Members are interested in providing enhanced assistance to nonindustrial private landowners for improving the productivity of their forestlands and other resources.

There is also a good deal of support for continuing the CRP with modifications to increase tree planting. President Bush has endorsed continuing the CRP for another four years, although the 40 million acre goal would not be changed.

In the last CRP sign-up (July 17-August 4), tree acres planted exceeded the 2 million acre mark, surpassing the famous Soil Bank Program of the 1950s and 1960s as the greatest national tree planting initiative. Alabama had 17,200 acres bid to be planted in trees under the 9th sign-up. Although a 10th sign-up was expected for late February and early March, no official pronouncement had been made at press time.

Congressman **Claude Harris** (D-AL) introduced legislation (*HR 3599*) February 6 that authorized \$100 million for fire training and equipping the nation’s rural volunteer fire departments and state forestry agencies. At its introduction, the bill had 108 cosponsors, indicating the strength of support this legislation carries. To date, no hearings have been scheduled. Note that authorization is only the first step to establishing this program. Actually securing appropriation money is the next and most difficult step.

The outlook for capital gains remains good. Though it was defeated after a lengthy fight at the end of last year, President Bush continues to emphasize capital gains as a priority issue of the Administration. ♣



by FRANK SEGO, Legislative Liaison, Alabama Forestry Commission

The just-concluded decade of the eighties brought an onslaught of acronyms into the Alabama political arena. Names such as **AMPAC**, **IMPAC**, **APAC**, **BIPAC**, **MAX PAC**, **FAXPAC**, **LEGPAC**, **CANPAC**, **NEWPAC**, **COMPAC**, **DOGPAC**, **TELPAC** and **MOPAC** were thrust on the political horizon during the 1980s. Their mission: (1) to promote candidates who share a common philosophy for pro-industry, pro-education, pro-business, pro-environment, pro-development or pro-whatever their organization papers declared their intentions to be; and (2) to get their preferred legislation passed.

Alabama volunteer firefighters, however, took a different route. They generated an idea that was totally different in concept from the PACs. It is proving to have a significant effect in providing successful legislation for volunteer firefighters and their departments in this state.

The concept, new to the political spectrum in Alabama, was founded by Congressman **Curt Weldon** (R) of Pennsylvania, a second generation volunteer fire chief. Through his efforts, the first annual Congressional Fire Service Caucus Dinner was staged in Washington, D.C. in April, 1989. State Forester **C.W. Moody**; **Bud Watts**, legislative liaison between the Alabama Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Department Steering Committee and the legislature; and **Ray Tucker**, chief of Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) for the AFC, attended this dinner as President **George Bush** delivered the keynote address.

The Caucus Is Formed

As members of this delegation returned home, they immediately set the wheels in motion to create a State Legislative Caucus geared to address the issues of rural fire protection in Alabama. The Caucus was envisioned as a bi-partisan organization, composed of members of both houses of the legislature, with all legislators being encouraged to join.

Goals of the Caucus would focus on the introduction and support of legislation to promote fire prevention and fire suppression in rural Alabama. The Caucus would further provide a coordinated effort with established legislative leadership to represent concerns for rural community fire protection.

Senator **Ann Bedsole** (R-Mobile), and Representative **Richard Laird** (D-Roanoke) agreed to co-chair the Caucus. Both have championed the causes of volunteer firefighters and the Forestry Commission's Rural Community Fire Protection program throughout their legislative careers. Volunteer firefighters and forest landowners in each legislative district have encouraged legislators in their districts to join the Caucus. The results have been phenomenal!

With over 900 volunteer fire departments in Alabama, legislators are acutely aware of the impact of this vital segment of our population. Rep. Laird is quick to point out that he and his colleagues who are seeking re-election will be counting heavily on VFD support in the June primaries and the general election this year.

The RCFP Institute

The Legislative Caucus was boosted further by the creation of the RCFP Institute, which was incorporated in July, 1989. The Institute parallels the

National Fire Protection Institute, of which Rep. **Curt Weldon** of Pennsylvania serves as honorary chairman.

RCFP Institute President **Bud Watts** says it was formed to define and research issues of concern by the rural community fire groups and pass these concerns on to the RCFP Legislative Caucus.

The Institute's ten member board of directors consists of the following: four members of a certified volunteer fire department appointed by the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD); the Association president; four members from certified volunteer fire departments appointed by the AFC; and the Chief of the RCFP section of the AFC.

Make it a "YES" Vote

This columnist reminds all registered voters to cast a "YES" vote for the constitutional amendment that will allow forest landowners to approve a 10 cents per acre assessment for fire protection in this state.

The amendment has the support of the Alabama Forestry Association and other organizations who support the Forestry Commission in its statewide fire prevention and suppression program.

The amendment will be on the June 5 primary ballot. Forest landowners will vote on July 17 in each of the county seats. ♣

RCFP Institute Officers and Directors

President—Bud Watts
AFC, Stillwaters VFD

Vice President—David Davis
AAVFD, Randolph VFD

Secretary—Betty Gober
AAVFD, Bumount-Hall Town

Treasurer—Ray Tucker
RCFP Chief, AFC

Director—Roy Mott
Pres., AAVFD, Thomasville VFD

Director—Billy Mims
AAVFD, Repton VFD

Director—Bill Grover
AFC, Jones VFD

Director—Bill Lowery
AFC, Concord VFD

Director—Joey Boyd
AAVFD, East Limestone VFD

Director—Verne Maroney
AFC, Harvest VFD

Famous and Historical Trees in

by TILDA MIMS, Information Specialist, Tuscaloosa

Alabama abounds with many fine examples of historical preservation. The antebellum homes of Gainesville, scenic Fort Morgan and the natural beauty of Bankhead National Forest memorialize moments in our state's great history. Gracing many historical areas are other, less heralded treasures—the trees.

The Alabama Forestry Commission appreciates the unique contribution Alabama's trees and forests have made to our heritage and have provided a means to identify and recognize them.

The Famous and Historical Tree Program is designed to identify, recognize and preserve trees associated with historic events, persons or sites, and renowned, celebrated, noted, distinguished or eminent people.

Alabama has many trees that have warranted recognition for their historic significance. In Tallapoosa County, an oak served as the site where General Andrew Jackson and his staff completed plans for The Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

In Tuscumbia, Helen Keller learned about nature during the hours she spent under the boughs of her favorite tree with her special teacher. And, a tree that "owns itself" stands proudly in Eufaula. This post oak, rare in the region, was deeded the plot of ground on which it stands by its former owner.

The most recent additions to the list of Famous and Historical Trees are the Jemison Oak and the Capitol Oak in Tuscaloosa County.

The Jemison Oak on the grounds of the District 3 Headquarters of the Alabama Forestry Commission honors Robert Jemison, Jr. Jemison was a lawyer, an industrialist and a powerful politician during the Civil War. He served seven years in the House, 12 years in the Senate and, despite his vote against secession, served as a senator in the Confederate Senate.

He made an indelible mark on the development of Tuscaloosa County and Alabama by leading the fight to override Gov. Winston's veto of a bill appropriating \$150,000 to build the

Alabama Insane Hospital, now known as Bryce Hospital.

He later steered the Commission into selecting Tuscaloosa as the site of the hospital. The immense building took the better part of a decade to complete, providing needed jobs for local workers and was a tremendous boost to the local economy which was sagging from the move of the State Capital from the county.

The District 3 Headquarters is located on the site of Jemison's 4,500-acre plantation named Cherokee. This water oak is estimated to be 200 years old.

The Capitol Oak is located in downtown Tuscaloosa at the site of the second state capitol of Alabama.

Fourteen Alabama trees were recognized nationally for their famous and historic value in the 1976 bicentennial publication, *Famous and Historic Trees*, published by the American Forestry Association. The Forestry Commission's Famous and Historical Tree Program came into existence soon after and was modeled after this one-time recognition program. The trees named in the AFA book automatically became Alabama's first Famous and Historical Trees. Those trees cited were the Battlefield Sycamore on the Capitol grounds in Montgomery; the Boyington Oak, Duffee Oak and the Georgia Cottage Oaks in Mobile; the Jackson Oaks, one at Horseshoe Bend in Tallapoosa County, and the other near Daphne in Mobile County; the General Jackson Pine near Wetumpka; the Jury Tree in Baldwin County; the Colbert Ferry Walnut in Sheffield; the Pushmataha Oak at Gaineswood in Demopolis; the General Gorgas Oak in Tuscaloosa; the Incense Cedar in Tuskegee; the Helen Keller Oak in Tuscumbia, and the Walker Oak in Eufaula. There are now 26 Famous and Historical Trees in Alabama.

The Commission encourages anyone who knows of a tree which may qualify for this program to contact their local office of the AFC for information and applications.

Schools, churches, civic groups and other organizations may wish to nominate a tree as part of a celebration, anniversary, reunion or other special occasion.

Trees submitted must fall into one of the following categories: 1) trees associated with notable people; 2) trees associated with the development of the nation; 3) trees associated with eminent educators and educational institutions; 4) trees associated with art and artists, literature and writers, law, music, science and the cultural life of the state; 5) trees associated with early forestry and conservation; 6) trees associated with religion and churches; 7) trees associated with distinctive scenic and aesthetic areas; 8) trees famous or historical because of unusual age or size, and 9) trees associated with an historical event.

An independent panel of judges will evaluate the applications and determine which trees satisfy the criteria. Nominators of approved historic trees will receive a certificate. A permanent marker citing the historic name of the tree and the nominator will be placed at the base of the tree.

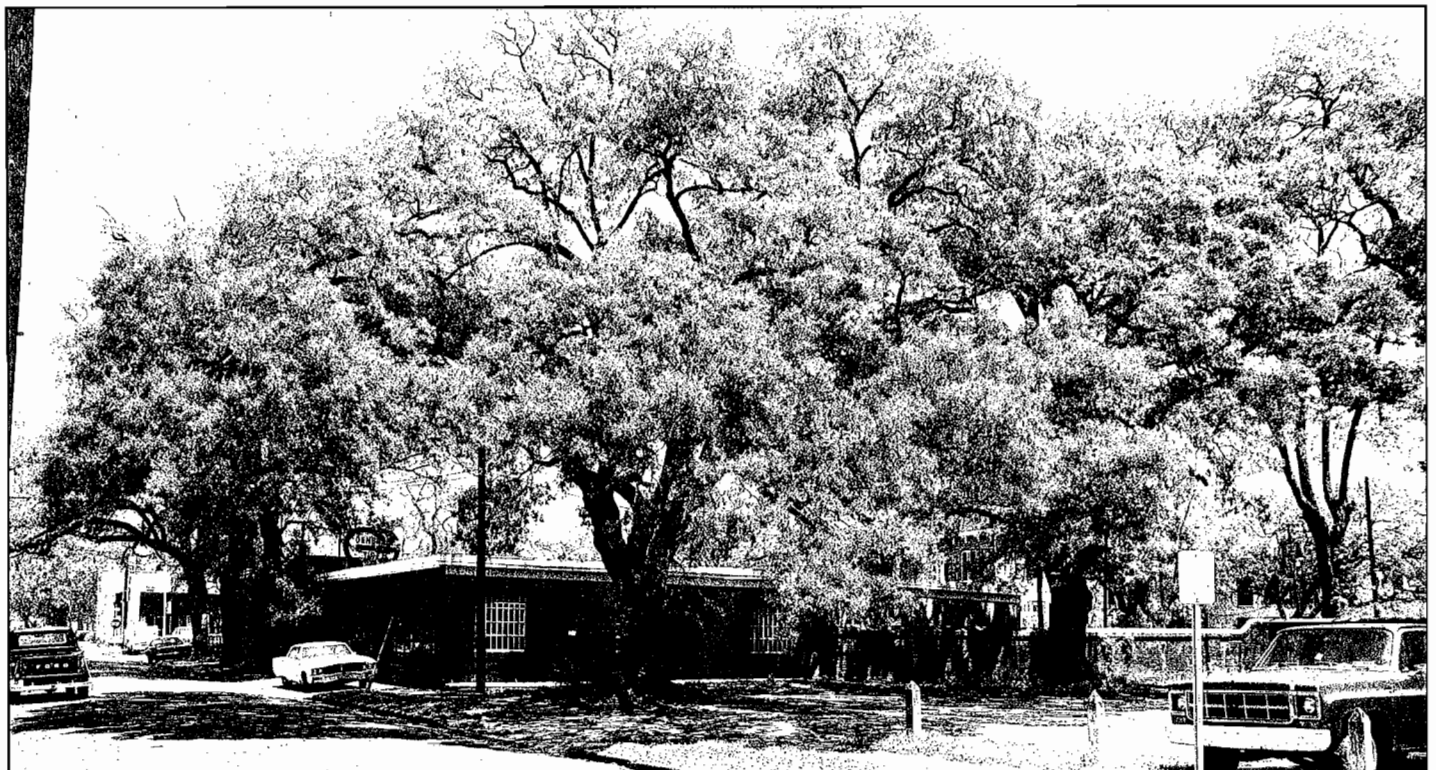
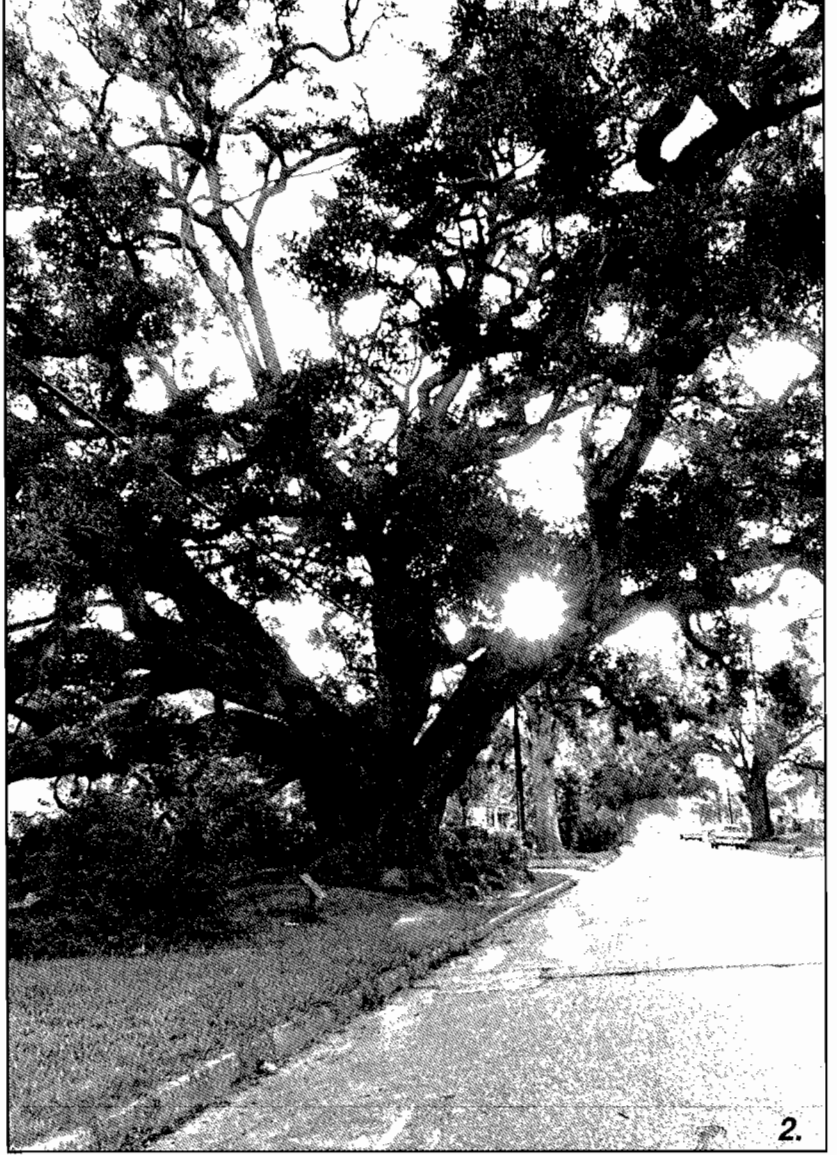
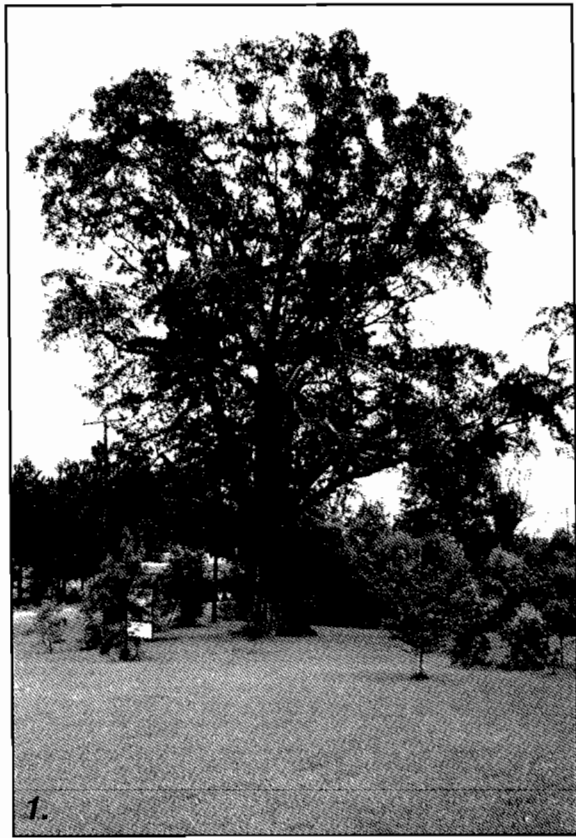
Past conservation practices in our forests have allowed many trees to become a valued part of our heritage. The TREASURE Forest program best describes the forest conservation ethic that both preserves notable trees and assures that our renewable forest resources make maximum contribution to the well-being of the nation. ♣

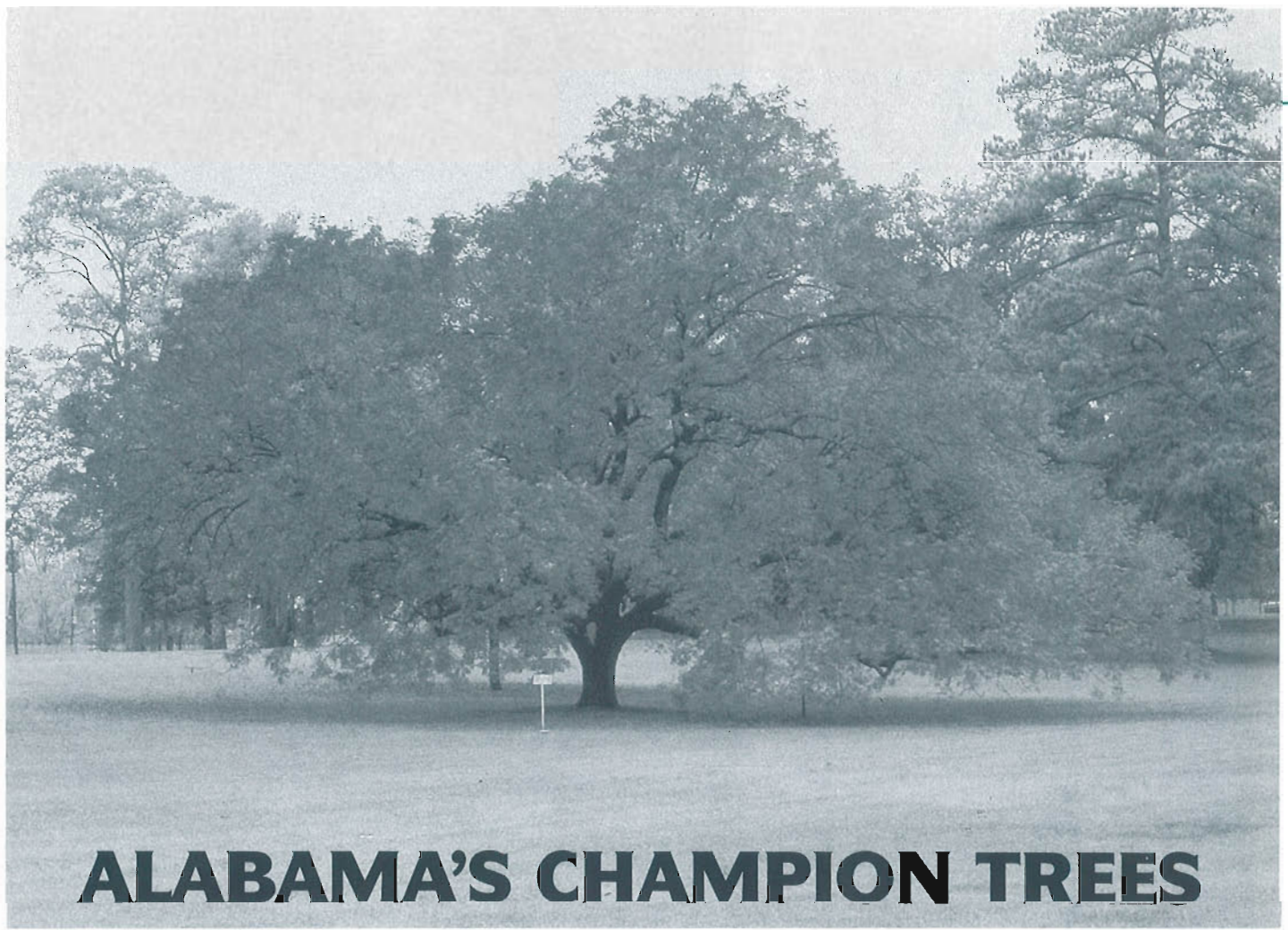
1. The Jemison Oak, located on the grounds of the Alabama Forestry Commission District 3 Headquarters in Northport.

2. The Duffee Oak, located on Caroline Avenue in Mobile, was named after a former mayor of the city.

3. Boyington Oak—Mobile. According to legend, Charles Boyington was accused of killing a man in Mobile in 1834. He claimed innocence throughout the trial and is reported to have warned from the gallows, "From my grave shall grow a tree of many roots, and it will prove my innocence." Years later the real murderer confessed to the crime. Today, at the place where Boyington was buried, grows a large live oak.

Alabama





ALABAMA'S CHAMPION TREES

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor and
LINDA PARTEN, State Champion Tree Coordinator

In most areas of life we have champions—those who are the fastest, the strongest or the biggest. But what about our trees? The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has a program to recognize those trees which have been declared the largest of their species in the state—Champion Trees. The Champion Tree Program began in 1970 and was designed to discover, recognize and preserve the largest tree of each species in the state. It is possible, however, that the tree recognized as champion is not the largest in the state, but it is the largest to have been nominated.

The AFC believes that our largest trees are irreplaceable and should be preserved for future generations. As of March, 1989, there were 174 champions in the state. This is opposed to only 28 champions in 1971. Thirty-six new champions were declared in 1989 alone!



For the Champion Tree Program, a tree is defined as a woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 9½ inches in circumference at a point 4½ feet (breast height) above the ground, a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 12 feet. If several stems from a single root system have grown together to form a trunk, only the largest stem will be considered. The three criteria for determining champion trees are height, circumference and crown spread.

The **circumference** of a tree is measured at breast height around the main stem or trunk and is given in inches. The **height** of a tree can be measured accurately by using a clinometer, hypsometer or Biltmore stick. The **crown spread** is the average width of the widest and the narrowest portions of the tree's crown.

*Bald Cypress—Baldwin County.
Circumference: 324", Height: 131', Crown
Spread: 47.8.*

Chinese Pistachio—Tuscaloosa County.
Circumference: 133", Height: 54',
Crown Spread: 71'.

A formula established by the American Forestry Association using these three criteria is then used to determine the formula value of the tree. The formula is: circumference (inches), plus height (feet), plus one-fourth the crown spread (feet). Take, for example, a tree with a circumference of 13 inches, a height of 21 feet, and a crown spread of 20 feet. To determine the formula value for the tree, you would add $13 + 21 + 5 = 39$. Thus, the tree has a formula value of 39. If more than one tree is nominated for a particular species, then the one with the highest formula value is declared the champion tree. If the formula value for a nominated tree exceeds that of a current champion, then that tree is "dethroned" and the new tree takes its place as the champion tree.

When a tree is declared a champion, a marker is placed by the tree bearing the owner's name, tree species and scientific name, the nominator's name, and the month and year it became a champion. A certificate is also presented to the owner during a ceremony. When a tree is dethroned, the marker will stay by that tree because at the date on the marker the tree was a champion. In many cases, a tree has been declared champion, dethroned,

and then because of the death of a tree or continued growth, declared champion once more.

Champion trees in Alabama are eligible to become national champions through the Register of Big Trees kept by the American Forestry Association. Currently, there are six state champion trees who are also national champions.

Champion Trees are declared during the Spring of each year, but nominations may be submitted at any time. Anyone may nominate a tree for this program, and forms are available at any county AFC office. Personnel there will assist with the completion of the form and will verify the measurements of the tree. ♣

Ten Most Wanted

Help us find champions for these species. Currently there are no champions for the following:

Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>
Chalk Maple	<i>Acer leucoderme</i>
Nuttall Oak	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>
Red bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Southern Crab Apple	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>
Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>

Some Champion Trees in Alabama

Tree		County	Circumference	Height	Crown Spread
Southern Red Oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Pike	286"	92'	136'
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Madison	177"	72.5'	51'
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida L.</i>	Randolph	74"	33'	37.75'
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Coosa	212.5"	92'	100'
Florida Maple*	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	Sumter	196"	110'	60'
Longleaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	Monroe	104"	107'	55'
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Jefferson	159.5"	142'	70.75'
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Colbert	173.5"	78'	98.67'
Mockernut Hickory*	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Monroe	161"	125'	81'
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	DeKalb	133.8"	80'	78'
Yellow Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera L.</i>	Lawrence	248"	151'	73'

*Also a national champion.

ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT

1

Jackson County recently held a ceremony marking the signing of a cooperative agreement between the **Tennessee Valley Authority** and the **Jackson County Forestry Planning Committee**. The agreement provides for joint assistance in the development of a Forestry Demonstration Area on TVA land near Scottsboro. The area will be utilized to demonstrate various multiple-use management practices landowners can implement. The project is a highly cooperative one involving state and federal agencies, private forest companies and individual landowners.

The **Mountain Lakes Chapter of the Society of American Foresters** assisted the **Huntsville-Madison County Botanical Gardens** in the first Christmas Tree Recycling Project. Trees from throughout the city were brought to a central site by homeowners and volunteers. Utilizing a chipper provided by Asplundh Tree Service, the trees were shredded into aromatic mulch. The City Public Works Department provided a front end loader to load mulch into trucks for homeowners to use. Virginia pines and sawtooth oaks were donated by the AFC District Office to be given to people bringing trees to the site. Volunteer Committee Chairperson **Rick Hill** said plans are underway to vastly expand the program next year based on the positive response.

Recently, new TREASURE Forest Landowners in District 1 were presented custom framed certificates for becoming the newest additions to the ever-growing TREASURE Forest family. The deserving recipients were the following: **Ralph Dawson**, DeKalb County; **Mildred Jones** and **Lois Ingram**, Calhoun County; and **Vernon Johnson**, Jackson County.

Etowah County personnel organized and named a forestry display for two days at Gadsden Mall. Information on TREASURE Forests and urban forestry was highlighted and seen by approximately 600 people who stopped by the exhibit. As a grand finale, 25 selected trees were given away as door prizes on the last day of the event.

Madison County added their 15th and 16th trees to the listing of Alabama Champion Trees recently. Certificates and plaques were presented by Ranger **Mark Roberts** to **Coy Madison** (American smoketree) and **Gary** and **Laura Abernathy** (green ash). A news article publicizing the champions was written by reporter **John Peck** and printed in the *Huntsville Times*.

Jackson County Supervisor **Ed Eldredge** has been working with Scottsboro City Council member **John Jacobs**, RC&D Coordinator **Mike Roden** and others concerning timber bridges. Potential sites have been located with engineering and design work proceeding. A timber bridge seminar may be held in the near future given the great interest of all parties involved.

Marshall County Ranger **Larry Parker** and Forestry Worker **Leitha McClain** have been busy with educational activities in the county. Among the more unique programs, the "Eco-System" presentation stood out. Using a large 5'x 8' fabric covered board, **Guntersville Elementary** third graders placed various cut-outs of ecosystem elements onto the board which represented the environment. Not only "good" things like trees, clouds and soil but "bad" elements like paper litter, plastic and pollution were included on the board. One hundred sixty-five students participated in the activity.

DISTRICT

2

The **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored the third annual sixth grade tour of the **International Forest Seed Company**, near Odenville. Approximately 763 sixth grade students and teachers toured the nursery, seed lab, and the seed plant. The Kiwanis Club of Pell City provided the students with refreshments.

Several District 2 associates completed the Forest Utilization Advanced Ranger Course held at the 4-H Center in Shelby County. They were: **Ken Hulsey**—Cullman, **William Owen**—Blount, **Dennis Underwood** and **Tim Davis**—St. Clair, **John Kimbrell**, **Sammy Holdsambeck**, and **Wayne Ward**—Shelby; **Greg Kelsoe**, **Brian Morgan**,

Bill Hammer, and **Larry Clark**—Jefferson, **Dan Jackson** and **Bobby Matthews**—Walker; and **Coleen Vansant**—District Office.

Associates with the **St. Clair County Office of the Alabama Forestry Commission** were honored recently in Montgomery, when they received the Helen Hunt Anti-Litter Award—Special Category. The office was honored for their outstanding contributions in litter control and beautification in St. Clair County. Other winners of the award from District 2 included: **Walker County PALS**—County Category, the **Cullman Police Department**—City Category, and **Channel 13**—Broadcast Media Category. The annual awards are sponsored by **Alabama PALS** (People Against A Littered State).

Over 1,000 Walker County school children participated in a tree planting program sponsored by the **Walker County Forestry Planning Committee**. Children at Shrine School and all third grade county school students assisted committee members in planting sawtooth, overcup, and white oak seedlings at their schools.

Blount County Ranger **Jim Walker** and **John Littrell** of **Bowater Woodlands** have recently certified and placed ten Tree Farm signs across Blount County.

In celebration of Christmas, the **St. Clair Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored the "Grow Your Own Christmas Tree Program" to approximately 500 third grade students in St. Clair County and Pell City schools. Members of the planning committee gave brief presentations on the planting and care of the Christmas trees and each student was given a tree to plant at home.

Cullman Rangers **Jimmy Moody** and **Ken Hulsey** have been busy this winter attempting to reach one of their goals. The rangers are presenting fire prevention programs to every elementary school in Cullman County. When they have completed, they will have visited over 12 schools—some of them twice.

The **St. Clair County Firefighters Association** recently elected officers for the new year. Forestry Worker **Sandra Jones** was elected secretary and Ranger **Dennis Underwood** was elected training officer.

Associates in Walker County have presented 22 forestry and fire prevention programs to 4-H clubs across Walker County.

Congratulations to **Pinedale Volunteer Fire Department** who recently became St. Clair County's 23rd certified volunteer fire department.

District 2 associates completing the Prescribed Burning Course of Advanced Ranger Training were: Blount Ranger **William Owen**, St. Clair Ranger **Tim Davis**, Shelby Rangers **Sammy Holdsambeck**, **Wayne Ward**, and **John Kimbrell**, Jefferson County Supervisor **Greg Kelsoe**, Jefferson Rangers **Brian Morgan** and **Larry Clark**, District I&E Specialist **Coleen Vansant**, Walker County Supervisor **Dan Jackson**, and Cullman Ranger **Ken Hulsey**. The training took place at Solon Dixon Forestry Center near Andalusia.

Jim Walker, working with the **Blount County Forestry Planning Committee**, assisted in having a Christmas tree donated to children at the Department of Human Resources.

The Blount County Forestry personnel wish to express their sympathy in the death of **W.C. Foust**, E.M.A. Coordinator in Blount County. Mr. Foust died January 1. He was instrumental in helping to organize many of the 22 volunteer fire departments in Blount County. He will be missed by many.

District 2 would like to welcome **Bill Burks** as the new Blount County supervisor.

DISTRICT

3

Establishing quality hardwood stands may sometimes require more effort but will pay greater dividends in the long run, area landowners were told recently. Over 100 people attended a TREASURE Forest field day in Greensboro sponsored by the **Alabama Forestry Commission**, the **Hale County Forestry Planning Committee**, the **Tombigbee RC&D Council** and local forest industries. Federal Bankruptcy Judge **George Wright** hosted the event at his TREASURE Forest, Millwood.

Consultant Foresters **Gary Butler** and **Steve Gardiner** manage the 2,635 acre tract along the Black Warrior River for timber and wildlife. They guided the landowners through the tract pointing out areas planted in cherrybark oak, Shumard oak and ash, as well as acreage site-prepared for natural regeneration. They also explained the benefits of hardwoods for wildlife habitat.

AFC Hardwood Specialist **Tom Cambre** explained the unique aspects of growing hardwoods. "Hardwoods are very site specific and while pines may grow on hardwood sites, hardwoods do not do well on pine sites. Some of the hardwoods most in demand—red oaks, white oaks, yellow poplar and ash are light tolerant species and perform best in full sun. Some of the less valuable species such as hornbeam, American beech and maple are shade tolerant, and may take over the stand if site preparation is not done properly."

According to AFC statistics, the demand for hardwoods exceeds growth throughout the South. The 1988 demand for hardwood pulpwood in West Central Alabama was 554,000 cords, exceeding pine pulpwood by 73,000 cords.

Congratulations to **David McGiffert** and his family for receiving TREASURE Forest certification. The McGifferts are planting a variety of hardwoods on their south Tuscaloosa acreage.

The new Tuscaloosa County ranger's office is now complete. The new building is adjacent to the District Headquarters on Highway 82 West. County Supervisor **William Moore** invites everyone to drop by for a tour.

Lamar County has a new volunteer fire department in Henson's Springs. That area of the county greatly needed the additional fire protection. County Supervisor **Alton Terrell** presented the **Henson's Springs VFD** a check for \$1,350.

DISTRICT

4

Neil Letson and **Mary Tucker** presented a Project Learning Tree Workshop at **Carver Magnet School** to 23 elementary school teachers from Montgomery.

District Four held Open House on December 14 for the District Four team as well as the cooperators from the seven counties. The day was enriching to everyone.

The Chambers County AFC put up a Forestry display at **Lanett High School** and at **Valley High** for the week of November 13-22. Chambers County Forester **Clayton Schwind** was active in the Farm-City planning meeting and attended the banquet.

Randolph County Ranger **Charles Sikes** and **Mary Tucker** joined over 35 representatives with displays and information concerning possible careers for Career Day at the **Randolph Roanoke Area Vocational School (RRAVS)** in Wedowee, Randolph County. This is an annual affair for the juniors and seniors from the Randolph County Schools. The representatives with displays were from the colleges and universities of Alabama, technical schools from Alabama and Georgia, private business, banks, hospitals, industry, and the armed services.

The Forestry Commission display was in the classroom of **Jim Morris**, a forester who teaches forestry technical courses and machinery repair and upkeep at the RRAVS. Mr. Morris and his students are a great source of help to the AFC in Randolph County. In times of wildfire emergencies they are willing to assist and they also assist in repairing equipment.

Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee sponsored a TREASURE Forest Landowners tour on November 29. The tour was on **Joel** and **Paula Neighbors'** property in the Hanover community. The topics discussed on the tour included site preparation, tree planting, timber stand improvement, wildlife habitat management techniques, and prescribed burning. **Earl Brown**, **Horten D.C. Adcox**, **Roger Vines**, and **W.S. Phillips and Sons** were awarded their TREASURE Forest certificates. Lunch was provided by the **Coosa County Farmers Federation**.

The **Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored a Junior Pine Tree Planting Contest in December. Seedlings for the contest were donated by Bama Wood and distributed by Extension Agent **Roger Vines** to 4-H clubs in the county. The tree plantings will be judged in December, 1990, with the winning club receiving a cash prize.

The **Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee**, in conjunction with the **Coosa County Wildlife Federation**, hosted a Non-game Wildlife program in January. **Dr. Joe Meyer**, who is Coordinator of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Non-game Wildlife Program, was the guest speaker. Approximately 25 people attended the program which detailed Alabama's efforts to restore breeding populations of the Bald Eagle and the Osprey to Alabama.

On January 30, **Lamar Dewberry** was honored at a luncheon at the Auburn University Conference Center as the recipient of the Mosley Environmental Award for his

work as Vocational Science teacher at Lineville High School. Mr. Dewberry has done outstanding work with his pupils since he began teaching at Lineville eight years ago. His forestry judging teams have won numerous awards in the state and in 1988 his team won the national award. On January 31 he was again honored at a meeting of the **East Central Alabama District Agri-Business Teachers Association**. The program was hosted by **George White**, district supervisor, and **Charles Reed**, state supervisor. **Dr. Willie Cheatham** of A&M University, and **Dr. Drake** of Auburn University presented part of the program. State Forester **C.W. Moody** honored Mr. Dewberry for his achievements in the area of forestry and the environment and told the group about **Dr. W. Kelley Mosley**, who owns the first TREASURE Forest at his Myrtlewood Farm. Dr. Mosley established the Environmental Awards and it is administered by Auburn University.

Clay County Forester **Earl Smith**, who nominated Dewberry for the Mosley Award, also commented on Lamar Dewberry's outstanding efforts and dedication in inspiring his students. He mentioned that the salutatorian from the 1987 graduating class of Lineville High School received a four-year scholarship from industry and is studying forestry at Auburn University; the valedictorian from the 1988 graduating class received a \$1,000 scholarship and is also studying forestry at Auburn University. Another of Mr. Dewberry's students won the national wildlife award for 1989.

DISTRICT 5 Eight forest landowners from District 5 were certified as TREASURE Forest Landowners in December, 1989. Newly certified in Bibb County are **Joe B. Barton, M.C. Murphy**, and **The Snipes Farm, J.T. Williams** was certified in Chilton County. **Dr. William R. Bridges, George Jensen**, and **Mrs. A.H. Woolf** from Marengo County were certified. **Roy Cummings** of Perry County was also certified. These properties are all different in their size, timber types, and primary management objectives, but they are all being managed under the TREASURE Forest concept.

Several District 5 employees have been assisting the city of Selma since the summer of 1989 in identifying hazardous trees on city rights-of-way. This effort began after several trees and limbs had fallen in town. **Neil Letson** from the AFC State Office came to Selma to help train city workers in identifying hazardous trees and instructed crews on proper tree pruning techniques. An appreciation dinner was held at the Performing Arts Center in Selma on November 16 for the AFC and Alabama Power, who assisted in removing several trees. Selma Mayor **Joe T. Smitherman** gave certificates of commendation to State Forester **C.W. Moody**; Assistant State Forester **Charles Pigg**; and AFC employees **Neil Letson, Larry Brooks, David Pearce, Alan Williams, Tom Lang**, and **Ken Leslie**. AFC Commissioners **John Goodson** and **Milton Loughridge** also attended the meeting. City Councilwoman **Rita Franklin** set up the appreciation dinner and has coordinated much of the tree removal and tree pruning work.

The **Bibb County Forestry Planning Committee** held its Annual Field Day and Tour on November 17, 1989. The tour included stops at an AFC progeny demonstration plot on TREASURE Forest landowner **Dan James'** property; a tour of **Scott Davis'** whole tree chipping facility; and a tour of **Gulf States Paper Corporation's** box plant in Maplesville. TREASURE Forest landowners **S.E. Belcher** and **Don Harmon** were awarded their certificates during the tour. Making the presentation was **Cynthia Page**, forest education division director with the AFC. Approximately 45 people attended the tour.

The **Dallas County Forestry Committee** held a Tax Seminar on January 9 at People's Bank in Selma. AFC Tax Specialist **Lou Hyman** was guest speaker. Several local landowners and accountants attended.

DISTRICT 6 Pike County Supervisor **Wayne Craft** presented a program on beaver control to the **Houston County Forestry Association**. Calls are still being received about it and a local television station is doing a special feature using information Wayne presented in addition to other sources.

The latest certified TREASURE Forest in Houston county belongs to **Bobby and Jim Lamb**. Their objectives

are timber and wildlife. Congratulations!

Phil Forrester, owner of Forrester Farms, was presented his TREASURE Forest certificate and sign recently. Since becoming certified, Mr. Forrester has spread the word about TREASURE Forest and has become a real asset to the Forestry Commission.

Pike County Firefighters Association passed out their first checks from the recently enacted tobacco tax. Each department received \$500 and the next checks should be more.

The **Dale County Forestry Association** recently had a meeting on timber taxation, estate planning and investment planning. The guest speakers were a great panel of experts. They included **Walt Sellers**—forester, **Mack Davis**—CPA, **Gary Glover**—financial consultant, and **Robert Gilpin**—tax attorney.

DISTRICT 7 The **Covington County Forestry Planning Committee** hosted a CRP Landowner Tour on November 29. Approximately 35 landowners were in attendance. The meeting focused on future management of young CRP pine stands, including the expected future returns. The **Arthur Wiggins** property, a Covington County TREASURE Forest, was one of the tour stops. **Jim Davis** was awarded his TREASURE Forest certificate and sign for his 160-acre TREASURE Forest during the tour.

Stanley Parkinson and **Jack Floyd** are also newly certified TREASURE Forest landowners in Covington County.

The **Crenshaw County Planning Committee** hosted the Lurven Forestry Tour for about 30 people. The Committee presented an informative program with several site visits. At the first stop, landowners were invited to tour Lester's hardwood sawmill. **Frank Casio** of MacMillan-Bloedel discussed natural regeneration of hardwoods at the next site. **Walt Sellers** informed participants about chemical release of desirable seedlings. The tour concluded at the Ag Center where **Crenshaw County Supervisor Tim Money** gave a presentation on timber marketing and sales. After the evening meal, the Planning Committee sponsored a White-tailed Deer Management Seminar. **Dr. Lee Stripling**, Extension wildlife specialist, **Kenneth Johnson**, area biologist, and **David Langhorst**, extension wildlife specialist, presented the program.

Alabama Forestry Commission personnel participated in the Kiwanis-sponsored Crenshaw County Farm City Week. On November 17, approximately 225 students from over the county toured **Ronald Petry Farms**. County Supervisor **Tim Money**, along with **David Kelly, Tony Chandler, Madeline Hildreth** and **Smokey** assisted in greeting the children. Farm City Week concluded on November 24 with a Kiwanis luncheon. The special guest speaker was State Forester **C.W. Moody**.

Congratulations to **Earl Horton**, Escambia County's most recently certified TREASURE Forest landowner.

The **Monroe Forestry Planning Committee** awarded a Patrick Henry Junior College scholarship to forestry student **Jason Johnson**. Jason is a past member of the Monroe County FFA Judging Team.

The **Evergreen Tree Commission and Garden Clubs** cleaned up and landscaped a lot for a new mini-park in the city.

A ceremony was held on December 5 to honor Butler County's five new TREASURE Forest landowners. **William Avant**—Avant Crittenden Timberlands (2096 acres), **Jane Beeland** (797 acres), **James H. Watson** (836 acres), **Dr. George Inge** (461 acres) and **Keville Larson—Deer Run** (694 acres) were each awarded a framed certificate and TREASURE Forest sign. The ceremony was held at Greenville's **Sherling Lake**, another Butler County TREASURE Forest. Butler County Supervisor **Paul Hudgins** assisted **Tim Boyce**, Forest Resource Development Division, in presenting a program to 30 people, including TREASURE Forest landowners, family, friends and AFC personnel.

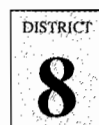
The **Butler County Forestry Planning Committee** purchased a Whitfield tree planter and trailer. The tree planter was donated to the Butler County AFC for use by landowners in the county.

Brandon Burkett, retired Butler County supervisor and member of Greenville's Tree Commission, presented a program to Greenville Kiwanis Club on Tree City, USA and beautification.

On January 15, Butler County Supervisor **Paul Hudgins** presented **Midway-Damascus Volunteer Fire**

Department their forestry certification.

Monroe County Supervisor **Gary Cole** presented **Mary Moran** of Birmingham with a TREASURE Forest plan after county personnel completed mapping and cruising the property.



The new fiscal year began in October and brought with it fire season. During the first quarter of FY 89-90 District 8 responded to 191 fires burning 1,499 acres.

By county the count is: Baldwin Co.—65 fires with 702 acres burned; Choctaw Co.—13 fires burning 58 acres; Clarke Co.—4 fires burning 12 acres; Mobile Co.—84 fires burning 589 acres; and Washington Co.—25 fires that burned 137 acres. Volunteer fire departments in District 8 were on the scene of some of these fires and provided much needed assistance in the suppression effort.

TREASURE Forest Landowner **Cecil Tanner**, of Mobile, has been appointed by Gov. **Guy Hunt** to serve as a member of AFC Board of Commissioners.

The **Mobile County Forestry Planning Committee** sponsored a landowner tour in November. The landowners toured several pine plantations and received information on forest management.

Mobile County Forest Rangers were presented their official Adopt-A-School certificate and plaque during a Christmas luncheon at the **Bryant Area Vocational Center (AVC)**.

A lesson on the uses, benefits, and techniques of prescribed burning was given by the Mobile County Rangers to the students of the forestry program at the Bryant AVC as part of their Adopt-A-School agreement.

Choctaw County Forester **Chuck Quinn** was recognized by "Keep Choctaw County Beautiful" for the AFC's assistance in constructing a flower bed for the City of Butler. Materials were provided by businesses in Butler.

Choctaw County TREASURE Forest Landowner **Gary Fortenberry** has been working with the video crew from the AFC in Montgomery. Gary was chosen to be the narrator for a video on stewardship.

In October, 35 Choctaw County landowners participated in a Hardwood Regeneration Forestry Tour which included on-site demonstrations.

Hobson Volunteer Fire Department in Washington County was recently recognized as a certified volunteer fire department.

Scotch Lumber Company celebrated its 100th anniversary with "Old Saw Mill Days" in Fulton on October 7. **Benji Elmore**, AFC county forester and Clarke County associates set up the AFC portable sawmill from Choctaw County and assisted **Smokey Bear** with his fire prevention presentations. Governor **Guy Hunt**, State Forester **Bill Moody**, AFC Development Director **Tim Boyce**, and AFC District Forester **Stanley Anderson** were among the 10,000 in attendance.

The **Clarke County Forestry Planning Committee** held their 15th Annual Forestry Tour in October. The theme of this year's tour was natural regeneration with pine. The lunch was sponsored by Scotch Lumber Company.

In November, the annual **Southwest Alabama Forestry and Wildlife Festival** was held in Jackson. AFC forest rangers were judges for the saw competition events.

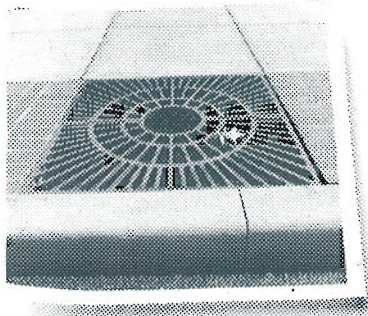
A Timber Tax Seminar was held for Clarke County landowners in November. **Lou Hyman**, AFC Montgomery, was the speaker.

At the Forestry Reunion and Celebration in Mobile, **Jim Smith** of Mobile was the winner of the handmade willow love seat donated by Cherokee County TREASURE Forest Seed Signer **Winston Anderson**.

At the PALS luncheon in November, 12 members of the **National Assn. of Retired Federal Employees** from Baldwin County received a 1989 Helen Hunt Award for their work in litter patrol in Fairhope. Representative **Walter Perry** and Secretary State **Perry Hand** were there to congratulate them. The group, known as "The Dirty Dozen," was nominated for the award by **Melanie Curry**.

A state champion tree has been declared in Baldwin County. The state's largest bald cypress is owned by **George Bryant, Marvin Bryant** and **Robert Bryant**. The tree was nominated by Baldwin County Forest Ranger **Michael Jordan** and Forester **John Martin**. The tree measures: circumference—324 inches, height—131 ft., crown spread—47.8 ft. A recognition ceremony was held with over 25 people attending including the Bryants, family

Help fill 100 million vacancies by 1992.



What can you do to help solve environmental problems? Join other Americans across the country in planting trees. You'll be shading your community and reducing heat-trapping CO₂ build-up in the earth's atmosphere.

There are at least 100 million tree planting sites available around our homes, towns and cities. And it's time these vacancies were filled.

For more information on how you can help, write Global ReLeaf, American Forestry Association, P.O. Box 2000, Dept. GR1, Washington, DC 20013.



You can make a world of difference.

and friends; **Melanie Curry**; **Michael Jordan**; **Melton Hadley**, forest ranger; and **John Martin**. WKRQ-TV, the *Baldwin Press Register* and Gulf Coast Media were there to cover the event.

Cooperators from forest industry and volunteer fire departments attended a Wildfire Cooperators' Meeting in McIntosh on November 15. District 8's county supervisors gave an overview of their county's fire control program. The lunch was held at the Boykin Lodge and was sponsored by **Tensaw Land and Timber Company**, **International Paper**, and **Boise Cascade**.

DISTRICT 9 Treasure Forest Management Plans have been completed for two demonstration forests in District 9. Both areas are located in Colbert County and have features that well represent forestlands in North Alabama. The 2,137 acres will be managed for timber, wildlife and recreation using techniques that will be appropriate to landowners in the Tennessee Valley region.

In the area of urban forestry, Red Bay and Florence will be recertified as Tree City USAs. Athens, Hamilton and Sheffield have adopted tree ordinances and appointed tree boards. Guin and Winfield are in the process of assembling boards and ordinances. Russellville and Moulton have proposed community tree boards.

District Forester **Gerald Steeley** and Foresters **Billy Rye** and **Don Burdette** have become involved in the Boy Scouts of America—Explorer Program. This program is for young men and women ages 14-20 who are interested in "hands-on" experience in natural resource conservation. Meetings are held once each month at the district office. Participants are allowed to assist AFC employees with field work and educational programs.

Marion County Supervisor **Tony Avery** invited State Senator **Roger Bedford** and State Representative **Charlie Britnell** to join him in presenting a truck to **Hackleburg Volunteer Fire Department** for their fire protection program.

The **Florence Tree Commission** has initiated a memorial tree program. Among the trees planted is a Chinese elm planted in Wilson Park to replace a tree planted in 1924 as a memorial to World War I veterans.

The **Florence Tree Commission** donated 60 potted dogwood trees to the City of Florence School System. Tree Commission members will be planting these trees at nine different schools.

The **Alabama Forestry Commission**, the **Colbert County Forestry Planning Committee** and the **Alabama Wildlife Federation** sponsored a Wildlife/Conservation Camp for Colbert County students. Twenty-six students studied all phases of forestry/wildlife conservation.

Colbert County Health Department has received the (PALS) Helen Hunt Award in the Education Category.

Franklin County has organized a PALS chapter. A large group attended the organization meeting. The Franklin County chapter will be involved in the Adopt-a-Mile Program, recycling and enforcing the anti-litter laws.

Austin Ezell is Franklin County's newest TREASURE Forest landowner. Mr Ezell became interested in forestry when he was a high school student and president of his FFA Chapter. Later, he graduated from Auburn University, received a Master's from Michigan State and a doctorate from Ohio State. He is now back on the family farm where he manages his TREASURE Forest.

DISTRICT 10 In October, **Elmore County PALS** gathered at Lake Martin to kick off the PALS Clean-Up Campaign. PALS officials announced that over 22 tons of litter were picked up from the Kowaliga area alone. Plans are underway for another Lake Martin Cleanup and a Lake Jordon Cleanup in the near future.

The Lee County PALS Chairmanship has been transferred to **Jeanette Herndon**. Mrs. Herndon is very enthusiastic about PALS and will be a big asset to the county program.

District Fire Specialist **Cliff Cobb** and Elmore County PALS member **Don Whitecotton** both exhibited their acting ability when they appeared in a recently released anti-litter public service announcement filmed by the Education Division of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Captain **Janet Cauldwell** of the **Bullock County Correctional Facility** recently presented PALS Vice President **Spencer Ryan** and District 10 PALS Chairman **Sharon Clark** with 11 anti-litter signs. The signs will be used at fairs and meetings to help educate the citizens of District 10 about PALS and the organization's anti-litter efforts.

District 10's tradition of furnishing the governor with Christmas trees for the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion continued in 1989. Lowndes County Supervisor **Bill Davis** has been finding cedars to be used as the State's official Christmas trees for 19 years. Brave souls who weathered the cold in December to cut the trees were **Bill Davis**, District Secretary **Tonee Thomas**, Fire Specialist **Cliff Cobb**, Montgomery County Ranger **Tommy Wilson**, and State Grounds Manager **Danny Percival**.

The **City of Montgomery**, **City of Auburn**, **Bruno's, Inc.**, **Alabama Power**, **Alabama Forestry Commission** and **PALS** worked together after the holidays to help keep Montgomery's and Auburn's landfills from filling up needlessly. The five groups combined efforts in a Christmas Tree Recycling Program which let local citizens turn in their Christmas trees in exchange for fresh Virginia pine seedlings.

Bullock County Supervisor Otis French and **Urban Forestry Coordinator Sharon Clark** recently met with the newly established **Union Springs Tree Committee**. **Brian Agnew** accepted the chairmanship of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is also comprised of **Betty Helm**, **Rasheeda Muhammad**, **Mary Jackson** and **Roger Welks**. Otis French will act as an advisor to the tree committee.

Bullock County recently increased the number of Volunteer Fire Departments to five with the establishment of a V.F.D. in Cornerstone Thompson. The new department brings the total number of V.F.D. in District 10 to 55. ♣

CALENDAR

April 7-8—Fort Deposit, AL. 19th Annual Calico Fort Arts and Crafts Fair. Outdoor setting features food, entertainment, and 250 exhibitors. Admission charge: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. For more information, contact the Fort Deposit Arts Council, 227-8589.

April 26-27—Athens, GA. "Estate Planning for Forest Landowners," a Univ. of GA short course designed for landowners, consultants, service and extension foresters, accountants, attorneys, and estate planners. Contact Richard C. Field, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA 30602; 404-542-3063.

May 8-9—Athens, GA. "Point Sampling: A Timber Cruising Workshop," a Univ. of GA short course. Contact Richard C. Field, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA 30602; 404-542-3063.

May 10-11—Huntsville, AL. Sixth Alabama Urban Forestry Association Convention. Huntsville Hilton. Agenda includes discussions on hazardous trees in cities, trees and highways, and other urban forestry issues. Contact Neil Letson, 513 Madison Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130; 205-240-9360.

May 23—Williamsburg, VA. Workshop entitled "Timber as an Investment and the New Tax Laws." Williamsburg Lodge. Sponsored by the Forest Farmers Association, Box 95385, Atlanta, GA 30347; 404-325-2954.

May 23-25—Williamsburg, VA. 49th Southern Forestry Conference and Annual Meeting of Forest Farmers Association. Theme: "Forest Farmers: An Endangered Species?" For details contact Forest Farmers Association, Box 93585, Atlanta, GA 30347; 404-325-2954.

June 1-2—Albany, GA. "Nontimber Income Administration," a Univ. of GA short course. Contact Richard C. Field, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA 30602; 404-542-3063.

August 20-22—Athens, GA. "Growth and Yield Prediction and Quantitation Stand-level Management Planning," a Univ. of GA short course. Contact Richard C. Field, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA 30602; 404-542-3063. ♣

Signs of the Times

In the last issue, we asked TREASURE Forest landowners to send us picture of their signs. Here are two that were received, as well as a look at how the sign has changed over the years.



*The Clyde Holcomb Family
Hackleburg, Alabama
Marion County*



*Don T. Harmon
West Blocton, Alabama
Bibb County*

Timber
Recreation
Environment
Aesthetics
Sustained
Usable
REsource

Some inquiries have been received on why there are two types of TREASURE Forest signs—specifically why the last E was left off the original sign.

In the beginning (1976) there was no last E on the TREASURE Forest sign. TREASURE Forest landowners #1-75 were issued this sign. Resource is the last word, and it was felt that an R was a sufficient way to end the acronym.

After several years, a decision was made to redesign the sign. Several proposals were considered and a new sign was adopted in 1979. An acorn was used as the symbol, keeping the red, white and blue colors. It was decided that the first two letters in REsource would then be used, thereby spelling TREASURE the correct way. The meaning is still the same, but beginning with TREASURE Forest landowner #76 the new sign has been used. ♣



EARTH DAY, 1990



Earth Day, April 22, 1990, is the 20th Anniversary of the original Earth Day. The original Earth Day was considered one of the largest demonstrations ever seen in the United States. Earth Day crystallized the environmental concerns of the nation. As a direct result of Earth Day, many environmental laws were passed, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. The Environmental Protection Agency was also formed. Many preservationist organizations trace their beginning or their rapid growth to Earth Day.

The environmental movement started at Earth Day and had a profound impact on forestry. Many people cite this as the point where professional foresters let other groups take over the leadership in environmental matters. In fact, the new "environmentalists" began challenging forester's actions. This soon came to a head with the famous Monangahela Decision, which briefly outlawed clear-cutting on federal lands. These effects are still felt in challenges to timber harvesting, monoculture and herbicide use.

The announced goal of Earth Day, 1990 is to revitalize the environmental movement. Rather than fight this effort, the forestry community should strongly support Earth Day. First, because foresters are professional environmentalists. In fact, many foresters joined the profession because of their concern for the environment. Secondly, the forest industry has changed over the last 20 years, and is now very concerned about the environment. Finally, many landowners believe deeply in the careful stewardship of their land, which has many environmental benefits. Earth Day is a good opportunity to share these viewpoints with the general public.

The general theme of Earth Day 1990 is "Stewardship of the Planet." The stewardship idea has long been accepted in forestry. The Earth Day organizers extend stewardship to cover many issues, from ozone depletion to hazardous waste, to litter cleanups. No one organization is expected to work

on all the stewardship issues, but is welcome to support selected issues within that theme. Five issues that the forestry community can support and emphasize for Earth Day 1990, are as follows:

Global Warming—Carbon Dioxide Build-up

This is a broad issue with many opinions existing about its reality, cause, and effects. The popular perception is that there is a problem. Rather than debate the issue, we should promote a program that can slow the build-up. Such a program is Global Releaf, and the Alabama version, Re-Leaf Alabama.

ReLeaf Alabama pushes urban tree planting to accomplish two goals. The growing trees will lock up carbon dioxide into wood. Secondly, by planting trees where they shade buildings, they can reduce energy use.

Litter Cleanup

This program is already well accepted by Alabama citizens. Alabama PALS (People Against a Littered State) is planning a statewide litter cleanup on April 21, the day before Earth Day.

Recycling

Many organizations will push standard recycling programs for such things as paper, aluminum, and glass. Many towns can set up neighborhood recycling programs.

The forestry community can help recycling by promoting recyclable products, such as paper grocery bags versus plastic, and paper fast food wrappers instead of styrofoam. Many people use plastic to "save a tree," but instead they are using up a nonrenewable resource that adds to our solid waste problems.

Towns and cities can also set up mulching programs for yard waste. Wood waste such as branches and removed trees, and even Christmas trees, take up much needed landfill space. By chipping this waste, towns

save landfill costs, generate mulch for city tree plantings on gardens, and can possibly generate income by sale of mulch to residents or garden centers.

Stewardship of the Forest—TREASURE Forest

There is a long history of responsible forest management in Alabama. This is best exemplified by the TREASURE Forest program. TREASURE began as a response to environmentalist criticism of forestry. In the early 1970s, state and federal agencies got together and defined good, environmentally responsible forest management. This definition became the guidelines for the TREASURE Forest programs.

TREASURE Forest management is environmentally sensitive. Besides rapid reforestation of the proper species for a site, landowners are required to stop soil erosion, protect clean water and protect wildlife habitat. By adjusting the program to fit landowner's goals, TREASURE has spread the message of good forest management far and wide across Alabama. In fact, a new federal program called the stewardship program has been introduced to spread the TREASURE Forest concept nationwide.

Wood Energy

One major theme of Earth Day is to encourage the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind or wood energy, and reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels.

Alabama has a proven record of cost effective, environmentally sound, wood energy usage. Alabama pulp mills are close to self-sufficiency in their energy needs because of wood energy. Independent wood energy programs such as University of Montevallo and Russell Mills have been successful. Wood is a renewable energy resource whose use should be encouraged. ♣

Dry Hydrant System Proposed for Alabama

by REGGIE SUMMERLIN, Rural Community Fire Protection Coordinator

Water, water everywhere and not a drop in my tank! This could be a statement often uttered by volunteer fire fighters at a fire scene. There is an abundance of water sources in Alabama, such as ponds, lakes, rivers and streams. The problem with these types of sources is that they are underdeveloped when considered from the standpoint of rural fire departments.

For a fire department to be able to utilize these natural sources, they must first be able to get a heavy vehicle close to that source. Then they must maneuver several sections of heavy, stiff hose into it.

This operation is very costly when you consider the amount of time involved. Every minute spent at the water source allows a fire to gain greater headway. How can this time be reduced? One answer to this question is to install a system of dry hydrants in a rural fire department's coverage area.

A dry hydrant is piping running from a water source to a point close to the water that can support the weight of a fire vehicle. The pipe allows fire apparatus to connect to the system. The pump on the fire apparatus would then be used to draft water from the natural source. See **FIGURES I and II**.

Dry hydrants have been used successfully in other states to improve the rural fire departments' firefighting operations and to lower community fire insurance rates. The Alabama Resources Conservation and Development Council and the Alabama Forestry Commission are working together to bring a dry hydrant program to Alabama so that the state may enjoy improved fire protection and lower insurance rates in many of our rural areas.

Several members of these two organizations have visited a county in Georgia to study their successful county-wide program. A fire truck has to travel no further than 1½ miles to reach a water source in this county. They now enjoy a fire insurance rating of Class 7, due in large part to their dry hydrant program.

A proposal has been developed that would increase water supplies available to rural fire departments in Alabama by installing approximately

3,015 dry hydrants throughout the state. Phase I is a demonstration project with the objective of installing five dry hydrants in each county at a cost of \$500 each for parts and supplies. Local contributions of labor and equipment for installation and development of access will be required. Phase II is full implementation with the installation of the remaining 2,680 dry hydrants statewide.

The demonstration project (Phase I) is expected to result in the improvement of rural fire protection across Alabama and to demonstrate the advantages of dry hydrants as a water source for rural firefighters. It is also expected that this project will lead to many counties installing additional dry hydrants and possibly securing lower fire ratings.

Funding for Phase I is being sought in the form of a grant through the

Governor's office. The proposed amount of the grant is \$150,000. Phase II funding is currently being requested from the Legislature as part of the appropriation to the Forestry Commission for use with the volunteer fire departments.

Many opportunities exist for improving fire protection in the rural areas of Alabama. Certainly the improvement in water availability is one of the major opportunities. Upon completion of both Phases I and II, firefighters would have an improved water supply. Dry hydrants would be no more than three or four miles from a fire station. This will give rural fire departments an enhanced opportunity to save lives and property from the damages of fire, and has the possibility of bringing a reduction in homeowners' insurance rates.

Illustrations courtesy of Red Head, Inc., Shreve, Ohio. ♣

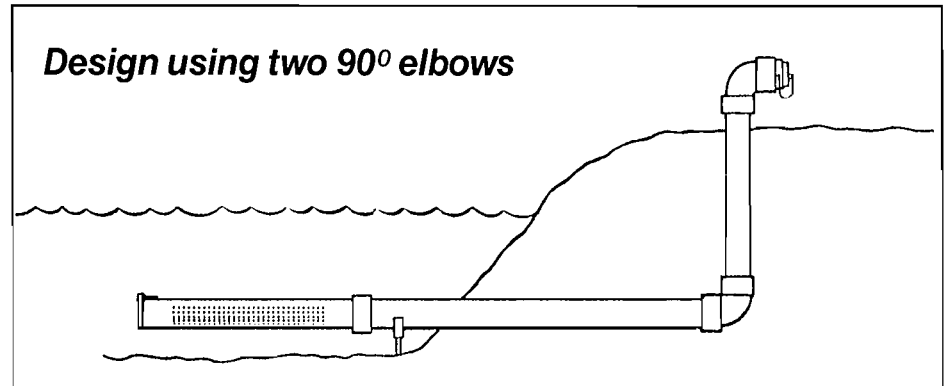


Figure 1—Although it is not the first recommendation, some sites are cramped enough to make the selection of 90 degree elbows mandatory.

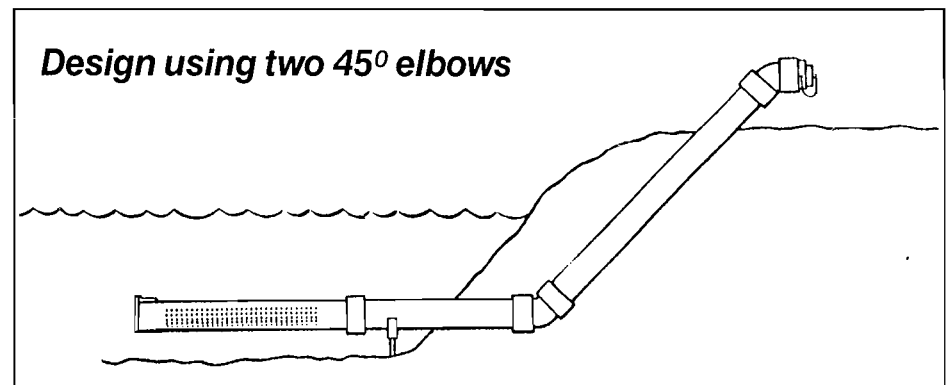


Figure 2—The use of 45 degree elbows lessens friction loss. Each 45 degree elbow contributes as much friction as 9.2 ft. of straight pipe, while each 90 degree elbow as much friction as 18.5 ft. of straight pipe.

Transplanting TREASURES

by
DR. DOUGLAS T. MCGINTY,
Huntingdon College

Few things are more appealing to the plant lover than digging a handsome specimen from the spring woods and taking it home to enjoy. Nature often seems to be marketing itself and the mere sight of a blooming woodland shrub has all the appeal and optimism of a seed catalog on a winter day. What's more, the very act makes us feel thrifty and self sufficient. We seem close to nature, having smelled the fresh soil and carried the prize out of the woods. And some primordial gene seems to recall the deep satisfaction of a successful hunt. Besides, if it can grow unassisted in the field, how much better will it grow with a little attention?

Transplanting from the wild can be successful and fun but, like most things in life, it's not as simple as it used to be. What appears as a bonanza of free plants can present problems, both ethical and horticultural, for the conservation-minded landowner.

The ethical questions first. Obviously, the rarer the plant, the more significant these become. Digging up a loblolly pine or a dogwood seedling requires far less soul searching, and less expertise, than removing the last panhandle lily from its natural habitat.

Even on our own land we should not take these questions lightly. Some of the most attractive wild plants simply will not survive in cultivation. Our forests are poorer and our yards are no richer when we try to move them. In general, rare plant communities are best enjoyed where nature put them. There, they usually take little from our productive land and they add much to our lives.

So, to dig or not to dig? That is the question. If the area is certain to be destroyed anyway, the decision is already made for us, sad though it may be. Otherwise, weigh these ideas before deciding.

1. Avoid "impulse digging." Like impulse buying, it is usually regretted. Be sure you really need and want



At the Alabama Forestry Commission District 9 Office in Florence, the Oak-leaved Hydrangea is but one species which has been successfully transplanted onto the grounds.

that plant. Don't take anything unless there is a specific plan and place for it.

2. Don't move a plant unless you are sure it will survive. Some factors that determine success are in our hands. Others are completely beyond our control. Try one or two specimens and see how they do before embarking on a major campaign.
3. How will the natural area be affected? We should only take surplus plants, being careful not to impoverish the existing community.



Red Buckeye

Always leave some to spread or reseed the area.

Upon resolution of these issues, we can dig with a clear conscience. But there are still the horticultural problems to be considered. Everything we know about planting nursery specimens applies, and then some. Wild transplants often need more—not less—care than their cultivated counterparts. The specifics vary with each type and environment but, remember, wild plants are generally more attached to a particular habitat type than domestics. Here are some suggestions that might help the project succeed.

1. Move the plant when dormant, if possible. Search the woods in summer to find a good candidate. Mark it with flagging tape and use a shovel to cut a ring around the base. This root pruning will cause new feeder roots to develop near the plant.
2. Protect the plant from drying. This is especially critical if the move is made during the growing season. One mile at 20 mph in the back of a truck will kill a leafy shrub. Likewise, a minute of small root ex-

Here are a few natives that have great ornamental value and are relatively easy to transplant:

Azaleas
Mountain Laurel
Blueberries
Oak-leaved Hydrangea
Buckeyes
Redbud
Cross Vine
Silverbell
Dogwood
Sourwood

posure to sun and wind will make all your efforts in vain.

3. The larger the plant, the greater its value where it is, the less likelihood it will develop into an attractive specimen and the lower its chance of survival. Large deciduous plants

will need heavy pruning—at least 50% of the branches. Better to keep looking for a small one.

4. The greater the difference between where it was and where it will be planted, the lower its chance of survival. Some differences, like sun and shade, may be obvious. Others are more subtle, such as an essential symbiotic fungus the plant must have on its roots. Evaluate both habitats thoroughly before digging.
5. Perennial bulbs and herbs can be dug any time after the tops die back. Mark them well during the growing season and replant them in late fall. Bulbs often suffer high mortality after transplanting, due to mice attracted by the loose soil and new smells. Wire cages are the only sure protection.

6. It is almost impossible to dig too large a hole for a new plant or to mulch too heavily. Leaf mulch from the original site is best as it might harbor beneficial microorganisms.

7. Seed collecting is the only worthwhile means of gathering annual plants and often is best for perennials. The conservation value of leaving the parent plant is clear and seeds can produce many more specimens. Most wild seeds have rather specific germination requirements. While these vary, placing fresh seeds in damp sand and refrigerating them for several weeks, before planting in sterile medium, works with most.

The warnings above are not intended to discourage anyone from using wild plants in landscaping. Our indigenous species are neglected treasures which deserve wider use and appreciation. Three things must be remembered when moving plants from their homes to ours:

- We should not deplete natural areas of plants in order to stock our yards.
- Wild plants need care just as cultivated ones do.
- It is essential to put the right plant in the right place, just as nature does. ♣



Wild Azalea

Hardwood Management in the

by TOM CAMBRE, Hardwood Specialist

Throughout preceding decades, Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) have been discussed and used in various ways. Since the time that water quality and the environment have been considered, SMZs have been defined as leave strips, riparian areas, buffer zones, hardwood stringers, and lifelines. These areas, all having essentially the same definition, have been considered lost or unmanageable areas where little or no management of timber was employed. This, in the past, has been the opinion of many land managers and landowners. However, some types of management can be beneficial to all resources if practiced prudently.

When considering management of these areas we become involved in the

many different questions which must be addressed and answered, the most important being how wide or narrow should the SMZ be. This is definitely going to have a great effect on what type of management system is used and what secondary benefits may be received from this practice.

This article is written for the TREASURE Forest landowner or landowner who wants multiple benefits from his land and has aspirations of being a TREASURE Forest landowner. On these types of ownerships the SMZ could vary in different ways. In the Piedmont and Uplands where there is a perennial stream, the landowner should consider the contour of the land and the timber type change as a possibility for establishing a manageable unit. In the

Coastal Plain, where the contours are not as distinct, the bottomland hardwood types are the management unit.

On each side of perennial streams in these areas and in the bottomland hardwood areas there should be a primary SMZ. This is a strip along both sides of the stream that could vary from 100 to 250 feet. If timber harvesting is conducted in this strip, the basal area of the residual overstory stand should not be lowered below 70 to maintain adequate crown conditions.

In general, no tracked or wheeled vehicles are permitted in the primary SMZ. Hand felling and cable skidding can be utilized to remove trees from this area. However, when ground conditions permit, removal of trees from this

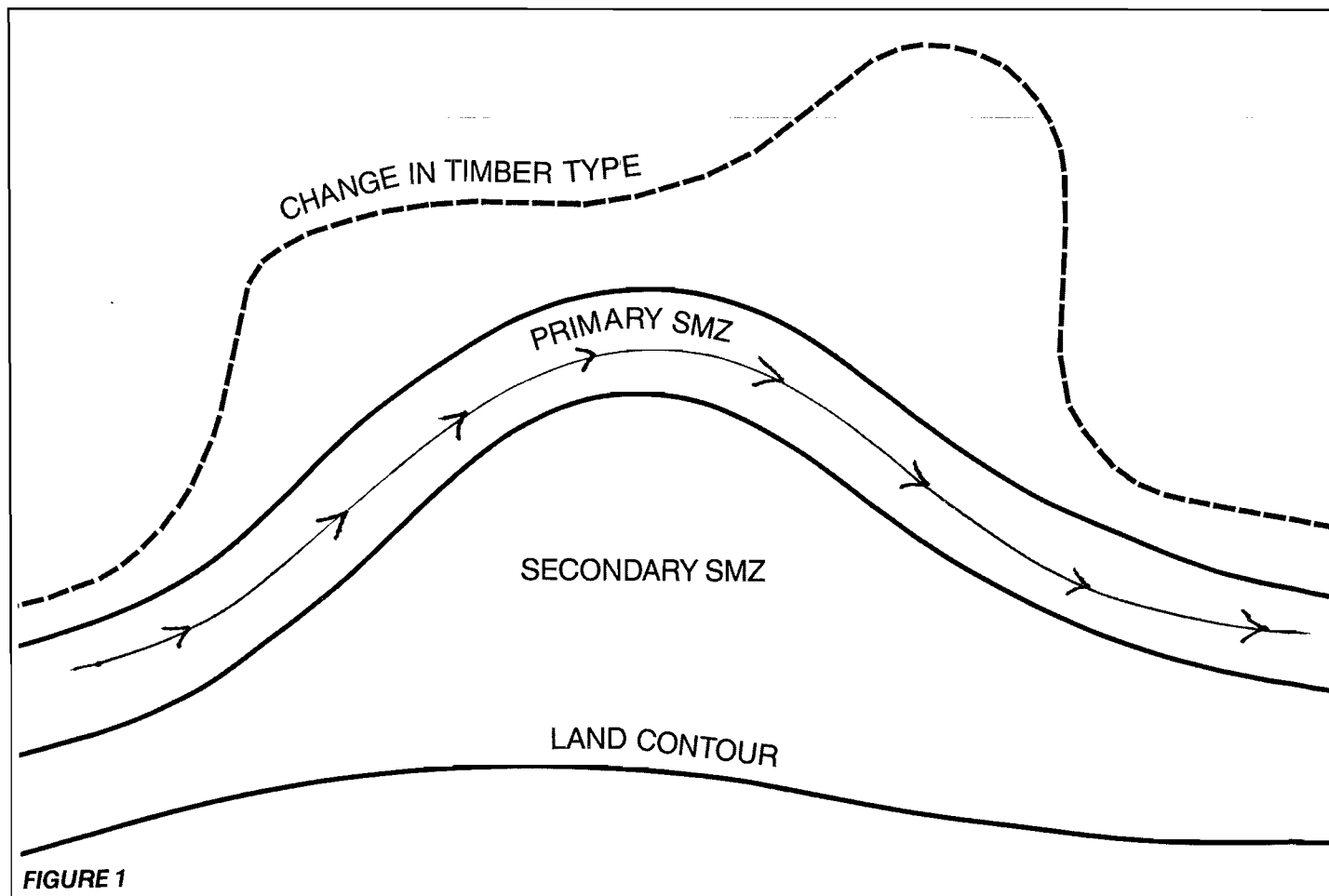


FIGURE 1

streamside Management Zone

area by mechanical means may best preserve the integrity of the SMZ and be the logical choice for harvest. The key objective is to maintain a continuous forest floor with little or no soil disturbance, a residual overstory of 70 basal area and an undisturbed stream bank.

The area included in the remainder of the hardwood stand or SMZ (the secondary zone) could be managed through group selection, silvicultural clearcutting, selective marking, or a combination of these or other hardwood management methods—whichever the particular stand or area dictates. See **FIGURE I**.

Due to the constant rising demand on the hardwood resource both for high quality timber and for pulpwood and other products, the private landowner should manage his true hardwood sites for hardwood and not convert these areas into pine. This is whether the hardwood sites are vast bottomland

hardwood sites or upland stream bottoms. In the future, not only will it be a valuable asset from the timber standpoint, but also for the many other options that are available to him.

Until recently, landowners did not place emphasis on these other benefits like they should, but times are changing. More and more landowners are learning that it makes good sense (dollars and cents) to actively manage their stands for improved wildlife habitat. This is because people are willing to pay for this kind of recreation through fee or lease hunting and other types of outdoor recreation. The urban growth is constantly reducing the amount of land available for this purpose and the demand is consistently increasing. This system also provides the landowner with an annual income between timber harvests.

The SMZs also provide water quality and enhance the habitat for

wildlife. They provide corridors or lanes across your property which can be used as wildlife roadways for animals to get from one area to another. Research has shown that primary SMZs should be established wide enough for major game species (turkey, deer and squirrel) to use for travel and nesting areas. The numbers of reptiles, amphibians and other non-game species increases with the increased width of the primary SMZ.

Regardless of the reason for managing the SMZ on your land, you will receive many other side benefits. The zones act as natural barriers to fires, insects, and disease. The roots and canopy of the trees on the creek bank will hold the soil and prevent erosion. Finally, following this type of management will provide more hours of enjoyment for you and others who are fortunate enough to share in the experiences of a TREASURE Forest. ♣

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Conservation Foundation Seeks Funds

Funds to improve, conserve, and restore Alabama's natural resources are being sought by officials with two state conservation groups.

The two groups—the Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC) and the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC)—recently joined forces to form the Alabama Agricultural Conservation Foundation, Inc. The Foundation will oversee fund-raising efforts and the

creation of an endowment fund.

The interest on money collected through private donations to the Foundation will be placed in Alabama's conservation cost-share program, AACDC, and made available to landowners working to reduce soil erosion, improve or maintain water quality, or promote reforestation on their land. Through the cost-share program, landowners pay part of the cost for improvements, with the balance paid through program funds.

According to AACDC Chairman Reginald Ray and ASWCC Chairman Charles Rittenour, Jr., the Foundation may receive and accept tax-deductible gifts, grants, or contributions from any source.

Tax-exempt donations should be made payable to the Alabama Agricultural Conservation Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 3336, Montgomery, Alabama 36193.

For more information, contact Steve Cauthen at (205) 242-2620. ♦



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