

# Governor Announces

# CONSERVATION

# CELEBRATION

# EXPO - 2002

**G**overnor Don Siegelman has announced that Oak Mountain State Park will be the scenic backdrop for *Conservation Celebration Expo*, sure to be the largest all-outdoors recreation show in Alabama. In a gathering at the Governor's Mansion, Siegelman unveiled Alabama's first *Conservation Celebration Expo* to be held September 28-29, 2002. "The *Conservation Celebration Expo* is about celebrating Alabama's outdoors – celebrating our unique and diverse natural resources...celebrating our broad spectrum of environmental partners...celebrating our rich outdoor heritage...and celebrating our abundant outdoor recreational opportunities."

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is coordinating the *Conservation Celebration Expo* in a manner that showcases the many conservation and environmental groups in the state working together. By design, a broad spectrum of natural resource interests will be a part of the two-day event and will include public and private groups such as agriculture, wildlife, forestry, industry and the environment.

The *Conservation Celebration Expo* will offer highly interactive outdoor experiences for every participant regardless of age, gender, or ability level. Twin themes of "use it wisely" and "use it safely" will be the basis for all hands-on activities, demonstrations and presenta-

tions. Visitors can participate in such activities as paddle sports, fishing, landscaping for wildlife, firearm safety, camping, rock climbing, nature photography, boating safety, and wildlife viewing. No admission will be charged.

Alabama's natural resources provide a variety of benefits: clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, unlimited opportunities for recreation and aesthetic beauty. The economic benefit is valuable as well. Each year residents and non-residents spend over \$3 billion on wildlife-associated recreation in Alabama.

The *Conservation Celebration Expo* encourages enjoyment and wise use of Alabama's natural resources. Conservation Commissioner Riley Boykin Smith believes the event is a great way to involve citizens in environmental protection and conservation efforts. "The *Conservation Celebration Expo* will do as much as any single event to promote an environmental stewardship ethic in the state. Alabama's great outdoors are here for everyone to enjoy. This event will provide an outstanding forum for Alabama conservationists to tell our story and engage every citizen in the outdoors. The beautiful location and hands-on activities will make for an exciting and educational family event."

For more information about the *Conservation Celebration Expo* contact Jim Mullis at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 334-242-3163.

## Alabama's Forestry Team Program

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state agency for facilitating economic development for the express purpose of creating jobs for the citizens of Alabama. In 1990, the Alabama Forestry Commission loaned a staff forester to the Alabama Development Office to facilitate forest-based economic development by providing technical assistance. The Alabama Development Office eventually hired the staff forester. The forester is a senior project manager whose responsibilities include the creation of jobs through the recruitment of forest-based industry to Alabama.

### **Forest Products Development Center -**

Located on the campus of Auburn University in association with the Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the purpose of the center is to assist the wood products manufacturers in helping maintain the industry's economic health and in facilitating growth in sales, profits, and employment. The Center is engaged directly in industrial recruitment activities aimed at the expansion and development of Alabama's forest industry.

### **Alabama International Trade Center -**

On the campus of the University of Alabama, the Center assists wood product manufacturers in the development of value added exports of Alabama wood products, encourages more companies to participate in the export trade, and fosters the economic expansion of the state's forest industry through exports. Direct, one-on-one assistance includes distributing foreign market information, trade leads, names of overseas buyers and contacts, and hosting foreign visitors to meet with Alabama suppliers.

### **Alabama Center for Advanced**

**Woodworking Technology** - Located on the campus of the Northwest Shoals Community College, the primary mission of the Center is to facilitate the growth and development of Alabama's secondary wood processing industries. The Center provides training that will help build a modern manufacturing workforce, assisting Alabama companies in becoming internationally competitive, and promoting environmentally sound processing technologies.