

# Bibb County Couple Honored with Bill Moody Award

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When the names of Dan and Romaleta James were called last year at the Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference as winners of the prestigious Bill Moody Award, it was a huge surprise for the Bibb County couple. According to Dan, "I was speechless." Later, Gary Fortenberry told him it was the first time since he had known him that he was speechless.

"Before, I had looked up to, admired, and respected everyone that had won the award, and for me to be placed on the same plateau with them is incomprehensible," Dan says. "It was undoubtedly the highest award I have ever received and I was truly humbled by it."

The Bill Moody Award has been presented each year since 1996 by the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) at the Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowner Conference. It is given to honor individuals and/or groups who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the TREASURE Forest Program and the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association. The award is given in honor of Bill Moody who served 23 years with the Alabama Forestry Commission as State Forester. He is considered by many to be

the "father" of the TREASURE Forest Program. His vision was to help Alabama landowners become better informed and better stewards of their land. This idea became the foundation for the TREASURE Forest Program. He also knew that there must be coordination among the state agencies to help landowners manage their forests. This resulted in the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee. Later he saw the need for landowner input to the

Mosley Award later that year. Both are members of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association and Dan has served as its director and president. Dan has been a member and is currently president of the International Wood Collectors Society.

Dan has been active in most of the local farm organizations including the Bibb County Farm Bureau, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Bibb County Soil and Water Conserva-

tion District, Bibb County Farmers Federation, as well as the Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council. On the state level, Dan has served as state president of the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts, Chairman of the Alabama Tree Farm Committee, and Vice President of the Advisory Board of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Romaleta is the recording secretary for the Bibb County Farmers

Federation Board of Directors and a member of the ALFA Women's Committee. She is a member of both the Women of Agriculture team and the Bibb County Farm-City Week Committee. She is also one of the forces behind the ATFA Silent Auction held each year at the landowner conference.



*Dan and Romaleta James, winners of the "Bill Moody Award" at the 2002 Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference.*

state forester about issues and problems they faced. This led to the creation of the State Foresters Advisory Board that later became the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

Dan and his wife Romaleta were certified as TREASURE Forest owners in May of 1986 (*TREASURE Forest #385*), and they were winners of the Helene

The Bill Moody Award was first given in 1996 when the selection process for the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award was changed from one winner and two runners-up to four regional winners. That year, the award was presented to Dr. Emory Cunningham, who was one of the three regional Mosley winners.

The following year, the criterion was changed. The award would not be presented to one of the four regional Helene Mosley winners, but to an individual or group who had contributed to the program or to ATFA. Each acknowledgement presented in honor of the award has a special connection to ATFA and involves woods that are native to Alabama. When the award was first conceived, Dan and Romaleta James felt strongly that it should carry with it a distinct and unique acknowledgement of service rendered. They have furnished the acknowledgements every year since 1997 and each award is individual and unique.

The recipient of the award in 1997 was W. Kelly Mosley for his outstanding and significant contribution to the TREA-

SURE Forest Program and ATFA. His generosity has helped promote stewardship by recognizing and rewarding those individuals who have set the highest example of what the TREASURE Forest philosophy aspires to convey.

In 1998 the award was presented to Jerry Johnson, state staff forester for Natural Resources Conservation Service in Auburn. His support of forest landowners and ATFA, combined with his early involvement in the development of the TREASURE Forest Program standards, helped strengthen a foundation for good forest stewardship in Alabama.

State Forester Timothy C. Boyce received the 1999 award. His involvement in the development and implementation of the TREASURE Forest Program and his long-term commitment to supporting landowners and the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association has been a cornerstone for the success of both.

In the year 2000, the Bill Moody Award was presented to Larkin Wade, retired Alabama Cooperative Extension System forester for Auburn University. Larkin supported the TREASURE Forest

Program and has been a member of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee since its inception.

Steve Guy was the recipient of the 2001 award. Steve is a registered forester that serves as statewide Director of the Forestry, Soybean, & Wildlife Resources Division and Director of Environmental Affairs for the Alabama Farmers Federation. This position provides direction, service, and organization to many forest landowners across Alabama. Also, Steve was a management forester with the Alabama Forestry Commission during the agency's inception of the TREASURE Forest Program, serving as its statewide coordinator. He is a longtime member of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee.

The 2003 Bill Moody Award will be presented during the Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference to be held October 23-24, 2003, at the Florence Conference Center. See pages 16-17 of this issue for more information and registration material. 🏠

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## Legislative Report

**T**he Alabama Forestry Commission is committed to bringing the readers of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine information in all areas that affect forestry, landowners, and fire. Whether or not legislation is passed or amended is sometimes crucial to the Commission as an agency, as well as rural volunteer fire departments and forest landowners across the state.

In order to bring you general information, *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* will take this space to feature different committees or people in the legislature and the status of important bills that are being considered. This segment will also be used to bring you information on legislation on the national level that might affect forestry in Alabama.

The two committees featured here are significant to the Alabama Forestry

Commission and its programs. Both consider legislation that is sometimes vital to the Commission's forest management and fire programs, private non-industrial landowners, forest industry, and rural fire departments.

### House of Representatives

*Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Committee:* Chair – Thomas Jackson (Dem/District 68); Vice Chair – John Robinson (Dem/District 23); and Ranking Minority Member – Greg Albritton (Rep/District 64). Members are Billy Beasley (Dem/District 84), Warren Beck (Rep/District 87), Lucius Black (Dem/District 71), Joe Carothers (Dem/District 86), Tommy Carter (Dem/District 5), Spencer Collier (Rep/District 105), Rusty Glover (Rep/District 102), Micky Hammon (Rep/District 4), Allen Layson

(Dem/District 61), Yusuf Salaam (Dem/District 67), Bobby Singleton (Dem/District 72), and Cam Ward (Rep/District 49).

### Senate

*Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee:* Chair – Zeb Little (Dem/District 4); Vice Chair – Jack Biddle III (Rep/District 17); and Floor Leader – Jeff Enfinger (Dem/District 7). Members are Tom Butler (Dem/District 2), Bobby Denton (Dem/District 1), Henry E. "Hank" Erwin (Rep/District 14), Jimmy Holley (Dem/District 31), Hinton Mitchem (Dem/District 9), H. E. "Hap" Myers (Rep/District 34), Myron Penn (Dem/District 28), Charles Steele, Jr. (Dem/District 24), and Gary Tanner (Dem/District 35). 🏠