

In Their Own Words: Letters to the AFC

To the Editor:

We were very proud to be one of the early owners of Alabama's TREASURED Forests. The land was sold to a paper company in 1996. Thank you for continuing to send the magazine. My husband enjoyed the information and pictures.

*Bettie Jo Glenn
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

To Dan Jackson

Montgomery, Alabama:

As snow quickly fell across Alabama, our dialysis clinic began to implement our emergency plan. We had a clinic full of patients and staff and we all needed to get home. I would like to extend my deepest praise to Forest Ranger Scott Sweatt for his generosity, kindness and expertise as he first transported our patients home and then returned to the clinic to rescue the staff.

After several hours in downtown Birmingham we realized that the over-the-mountain area where we were headed was impossible to reach. We made the difficult decision to turn around and go back to the clinic where we had been all day. Thanks to Ranger Sweatt, we safely navigated the ice, the hills, and the other cars and made it back. Ranger Sweatt was kind and made us feel safe throughout the entire experience; he even stopped in a convenience store so we could buy food to get us through the night . . . There were many "good Samaritans" in Alabama that night and I am thankful to have been in the care of one of the best.

I appreciate the service of the Alabama

Forestry Commission and especially Ranger Sweatt. Many blessings to you all. Laura Johnson, LGSW Social Worker, DSI South Dialysis Birmingham, Alabama

To Alabama Forestry Commission:

Just a short note to compliment Ross Presley, Richard Johnson, Jason Barrett, and Rickey Fields. Recently these gentlemen did a control burn on property in Stapleton. They were very professional in the manner in which they did the burn and the way they conducted themselves. They represent your department in the great way they did their jobs and the way they protected the surrounding area.

*Bill Broadus
Stapleton, Alabama*

To Clarke County AFC

Grove Hill, Alabama:

On 10 March I called the Alabama Forestry Service asking how I could get some cypress knees. Two days later I got a call from a very nice man named Kevin Crawford. I told him I was flying down south from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to vacation with my daughter and three granddaughters, and I wanted to get some cypress knees to make into reminders of our vacation. I plan on sanding the knees then wood burning the date of our vacation (it was to celebrate my 70th birthday.)

My granddaughter and I drove north about 70 miles to meet him. We then walked out to the swamp and he cut five knees for me. This is a special thank you for Kevin being so very kind

and thoughtful. He made an old lady extremely happy by going out of his way to call me in Wyoming and then take me out to the swamp to cut cypress knees. I will remember that day forever. Kevin Crawford could not have been kinder or nicer to us.

*You are lucky to have Forest Specialist Kevin Crawford working for the State of Alabama. I have told everyone up my way what wonderful and fine people are in Alabama. I do realize it may seem like a little thing to many people but to me it meant the world. Again, thank you, Kevin. Judy Plummer
Cheyenne, Wyoming*

To Benji Elmore

Grove Hill, Alabama:

Two of my relatives and I are small forestry landowners in Choctaw County. We experienced the epidemic of pine beetle devastation and have taken steps to reforest. The Alabama Forestry Commission Office in Butler, Alabama, advised us and provided other assistance as we took action to overcome this situation. One person, Mr. Allan Johnson, was particularly helpful in providing advice during each step of the process as we undertook action to establish a pine plantation in all our areas. He inspected all areas and provided viable options for us to choose. As the work progressed, he was available to assure that all activities were being implemented in accordance with the best forestry practices. He was always available to answer questions by telephone conversation and made himself available for face-to-face meetings as

needed. As a result of Mr. Johnson's assistance, I feel that I received the greatest economic advantage during the whole process. From the harvesting of the timber to the planting of the seedlings the options that I chose were beneficial and will result in a pine plantation that I can be proud of.

Another action that was taken by Mr. Johnson was the inspection of an area where a tornado occurred. After the tornado, he very soon conducted an inspection to determine damage. He immediately notified me that there was no significant damage and I slept better that night.

I continue to have contact with Mr. Johnson on matters related to forestry and he has demonstrated a depth of knowledge that is outstanding. His demeanor and personality make it a pleasure to deal with him on a personal basis. I look forward to future contact with Mr. Johnson as we continue to implement practices for good forestry management. In my opinion he is a great asset as an employee of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Sincerely,
Shermon E. Roberts, PE (retired)
Union Grove, Alabama

To Ethan Barrett
Greensboro, Alabama:

Many thanks for taking your time and expertise in presenting a most informative talk on "Urban Forestry" yesterday to my UA forestry class. The 20 students and I now know much more about urban forestry and ways to help prevent fires in urban situations. Again, many thanks, Ethan!

S. Wayne Ford
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

To Steve Lamkin
Northport, Alabama:

Many thanks for conducting a very professional presentation yesterday to my UA forestry class at the AFC field office. My 20 students as well as Dr. Staudhammer and I now know much more about the AFC's role in "Timber Theft." Of course, we both know you cover much more than timber theft. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to discuss your other multi-varied roles in the AFC.

Many thanks also for taking care of the woodland garbage problem you implemented for me a few years ago. Of course, I would also like to thank you for

the many times you came to Coaling to our Tuscaloosa County 4-H Natural Resource Field Day and helped discuss natural resources to hundreds of our 4-H youth. It was such a special treat getting to work with you again.

S. Wayne Ford
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

To Benji Elmore
Brewton, Alabama:

On the morning of February 17, the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office investigated the theft of a utility trailer from a logging job site in the Rabun community. The trailer carried approximately \$15,000 worth of equipment and diesel fuel used for logging operations.

Forestry Investigator Donnie Parker offered the assistance of the Forestry Commission's plane and a description of the trailer and general area to search was relayed. At approximately 1200 hours, Investigator Parker called Sheriff's Deputy Al Tolbert advising him that their pilot, Mr. Robert Trimble, had located the trailer . . . The trailer had a flat tire which probably was the result of damage sustained during the theft. Approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel had been pumped from the fuel tank but all of the other equipment was still in place. It is believed that without the assistance and efforts put forth by Investigator Parker and Mr. Trimble, the thieves probably would have returned for the trailer and/or more of the equipment. I ask that you convey to these two gentlemen our sincere appreciation for their help that day.

Respectfully,
Captain Robert E. King, Jr.
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office
Bay Minette, Alabama

To Jim Jeter
Northport, Alabama:

Thank you so much for presenting a most informative program to our University of Alabama Foundation of Forestry and Natural Resources class last Monday in the SEC Building. It was very educational to see the different roles in forestry since you and I were at Auburn to the present-day forest objectives.

Again, many thanks for using your valuable time and expertise in updating our students on the everyday changing

importance of forestry in our society.

S. Wayne Ford
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

To Brad Lang, Warrior Work Unit
Northport, Alabama:

Just a note to say "thank you" for all the hard work you and your department put in at Lake Lurleen State Park after the April 6 storm. We are almost back to normal; but this would not be possible without your reaching out to help us. My staff and I owe you a debt of gratitude for helping us in our time of need. We were at a loss as where to start and there you were to help us recover quickly.

Rosemary Burnette
Park Manager, Lake Lurleen State Park
Coker, Alabama

To the Editor:

I enjoy the articles and the beautiful photographs. Thanks,
Jim Cook
Vestavia, Alabama

To Baldwin County AFC
Loxley, Alabama:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Alabama Forestry Commission in Baldwin County for their recent efforts to control a forest fire in the Elsanor Community May 22. I own 30 acres . . . Acreage belonging to my adjoining property owner caught fire on May 22. Alabama foresters from Baldwin County quickly recognized the fire and made all necessary fire control measures to contain this fire. Their efforts contained the fire and prohibited it from advancing to my property and that of other property owners who homestead their properties.

I would like to especially commend Joey Donnelly and crew for the professionalism while managing this fire. They made necessary efforts to control the fire with minimal effects to my property and they took great detail to make sure all fencing and gates were left intact and all fire guards left a very manageable state. Please share my comments with those who are entrusted with the management and leadership of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Sincerely,
Mark Kraft
Seven Bridges Management, Inc.
Daphne, Alabama