

# In Their Own Words...

14 January 2015

To Greg Pate  
Montgomery, Alabama:

I would like to thank you for providing the Fire in the Field wildfire training to the Vestavia Hills Fire Department. Your team successfully trained 44 of our firefighters over the last few months. As a result of the training, we have a better understanding of wildfire behavior and how it affects our operations in the steep terrain and wilderness interface areas that make up much of our city.

Your cadre of instructors was very knowledgeable, professional and accommodating. It was a pleasure to deal with your staff, and we look forward to working with them in the future to train the rest of our members. I would like to share my gratitude to the following for their great work on this training opportunity: Ethan Barrett, Joel Bartlett, Jeff Bradford, Karl Byrd, Jason Dockery, Eddie Dozier, Doug Fulgham, Scott Hallman, Brad Lang, Albert Mayo, Jessie McDonald, Hank McKinley, Stanley Oden, Amy Smith, Ronnie Turner, and Coleen Vansant.

Sincerely,  
James R. St. John  
Fire Chief, City of Vestavia Hills Fire  
Department



14 January 2015

To Dale Dickens  
Montgomery, Alabama:

Thank you [and Cary Rhodes] so much for your informative and fun program, "Storm Resistant Trees." Looking around, I could tell our group thoroughly enjoyed every minute!

We are blessed to have people like you helping our planet.

Sincerely,  
Shelby County Master Gardeners (SCMG)  
Sunshine Committee



3 February 2015

To the Editor:

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your mailing me your Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine. I always read the entire publication "cover to cover" and recently shared the Fall issue with a co-worker who mentioned building wood duck boxes. I love the magazine and would like to send him a subscription . . .

Thank you!  
Diane Simpson  
Pleasant Hill Farm  
Huntsville, Alabama



11 February 2015

To Brad Lang,  
Northport, Alabama:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the services provided by your firefighters last night. Their prompt response to the fire on my sister-in-law's property, as well as their "take-charge" attitude and professional manner, gave us much needed relief.

Despite working well into the night, Ethan [Barrett] and Doug [Fulgham] never indicated they'd rather be somewhere else, such as asleep in their own beds. Their attitudes, along with that of Heath [Dorman] who was there as back-up, is worth noting. As a resident of Alabama (Greene County), it is reassuring to know that these men are prepared to risk their lives for property owners.

On behalf of my sister-in-law, Sue S. Vance, let me thank you again. Please let these men know how appreciative we are.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph (Joe) W. Fricks, Jr.  
Eutaw, Alabama



15 February 2015

To Jim Junkin  
Northport, Alabama:

Allen and I want to thank you for everything you, your rangers, and staff have done to assist us as we take on this new venture. We are moving ahead with implementation of the plan you outlined for us, have ordered trees for replanting, and are coordinating this action with Ernie Spiller.

Your assistance and the information you have provided have been more than we could have imagined. Everyone has been exceptional and so willing to help us to become good and wise caretakers of our property.

We look forward to continuing working with you. Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Allen W. and Nancy S. Brooks  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama



26 March 2015

To the Editor:

While researching information about the Civilian Conservation Corps (my father worked for CCC during mid-1930s), I came across the Fall 2009 edition of [Alabama's] TREASURED Forests. The first page of the article has a photo that I think has my dad in it. The caption under the photo says "Veteran Company 2420 (Camp P-60) at the Fairfield Fire Tower in Washington County, 1934" and is attributed to Alabama Forestry Commission. Is there any way I can obtain a good copy of the photo? . . .

My dad has been dead 50 years and I now regret not asking him more about his experiences in the CCC. My siblings have told me that he was a medic in the CCC, just as he was in WWI. He always wore white shirts and, in the summer, a "dress" straw hat. I will show this picture to my only surviving sister, who is in her early 80s, to see if she can confirm. The thought that the man in the picture might be my dad is very exciting.

I would certainly appreciate your help.  
Gypsy Helmers  
Reform, Alabama

# Letters to the AFC

28 April 2015

16 May 2015

4 June 2015

To Lauderdale County AFC (and others)  
Florence, Alabama:

First, please let me know of any outreach opportunities. As we move into the final stretch of the planning process, we need to continue to get the word out about the plan and various opportunities to do work in the Second Creek Watershed in the future. With that in mind, I am looking for opportunities to communicate with the general public through newsletters, Facebook accounts, email distribution lists, or other means to reach out. Please send me any ideas that you may have regarding resources you may have at your disposal or may have knowledge of that could get information out, particularly to residents. This outreach will lead to our final push for public involvement, including an invitation to our final meeting, which will be scheduled to coordinate with any publications that might be available.

Second, thanks to everyone for continuing to offer feedback and participate in the planning for the Second Creek Watershed. We had almost as many attend our second meeting as our first, which is impressive. Equally important, we had several property owners attend and express an interest in helping to implement the plan. That's critical! Thank you!

Finally, thanks to Renea Dyer, NRCS, and Steve McEachron, Alabama Forestry, for their presentations on BMPs. I think they did an amazing job illustrating what can be accomplished with the resources that we have available to us through this plan and beyond.

All the best,  
Nathan Willingham  
Director of Planning and Transportation,  
Northwest Alabama Council of Local  
Governments  
Muscle Shoals, Alabama



To the Editor:

I really enjoyed the Spring issue of Alabama's Treasured Forests. Thank you so much for printing Thomas Kaufmann's article on the need to preserve Alabama's fire lookout towers. For many years we were blessed here in Elmore County to have Mr. Ray Carpenter manning the lookout tower on Firetower Road. Ray was a fine man and such a wonderful help to those of us who were in the forestry and wildlife programs in 4-H Club and FFA during the 1970s. I have such fond memories of the tours that he gave of our local tower and he was a great influence on my deciding to pursue degrees in wildlife science. Also, my cousin, Kate Prater, manned the stone lookout tower in Coosa County for many years and we used to visit her there during the summers.

Mr. Kaufmann is right in saying that these landmarks are an important part of our communities' cultural heritage, and I hope that all parties concerned can find a way to ensure that we don't lose these valuable icons of Alabama's forest history.

Lenela Glass-Godwin, M.S.  
Elmore County



16 May 2015

To Dan Jackson  
Montgomery, Alabama:

Wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed the spring issue of the Alabama's TREASURED Forests. We especially liked the articles on the red and white oaks. We didn't know about the length of time for acorns to grow. Of course, since our home is named the Aerie, we liked the piece on eagles. Eagles and wolves are my favorite animals in the wild, so I like learning a lot about them. I know no one in our family is an Auburn fan, but was glad to see the oak trees were replaced. It was an all-around good issue, and appreciate getting a copy!

Thanks,  
Susan and Gene Pelham  
New Market, Tennessee

To Jim Jeter  
Northport, Alabama:

I was a member of Mrs. Pitts' Watershed Management class this past semester, and I wanted to thank you for taking time out of your day to show us the aspects of forestry within the state of Alabama. Before your instruction, I had very little knowledge of forestry, especially how detailed the processes are for protecting water resources; I now have a much clearer perspective of forestry and I have taken an interest into the science of forestry as well. I have a particular interest in the way brush is piled to prevent water runoff and erosion. In the past, I thought this was leftover brush from the operation, but now I have a clear understanding of its purpose.

After graduation, I hope to one day work in forestry or in conjunction with it to provide a continued sustainable approach with the environment.

Thank you again,  
Joseph Fields  
University of Alabama

