

# In Their Own Words ...

## Letters to the AFC

To the Editor

Thank you for the excellent work the Alabama Forestry Commission does to manage and protect our best natural resource.

14 April 2016

Sincerely,  
M. M. Nonnemacher  
St. Augustine, Florida



break /road that we could now use for hiking/hunting and with our off-road vehicles. All this by your men and their big JD machines . . . a big 'thanks' to Richard McCain and James Barker!

And early on in the first year, you, Paul, reviewed our entire 300 acres and prepared a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plan that we have used to administer our tree farm and our stream-side management zones [SMZs]. We are following it to a 'T' and it has paid off! We were honored to receive a Forest Stewardship Certification in September 2015 for our efforts.

All we did is follow your plan and from time to time get some extra advice from one of you . . . always freely given and 'spot on' with practical, easy-to-follow professional guidance. The relationship we have now with you and your team has now been added to that 'thing of beauty' that I mentioned earlier!

Sincerely,  
E. B. L.

Cleburne County Forest Owner



17 June 2016

To Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Balsie Butler, AFC:

[Following activation of AFC Chambers County Forestry Specialist James 'Moto' Williams by Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) to deliver tarps to the St. Clair Correctional Facility for damages to several roofs at the facilities resulting from straight line winds.]

We know we can always count on AEMA and our state, local, and private partners to assist with our 'gaps' during emergency situations in such an expedient manner. Director Faulkner commented as we departed the Shoals yesterday... "No other state stands as ready and capable as Alabama during times of emergency." So true. Forestry is the agency (Balsie Butler arranged it) which trekked the mountain

in Cahaba Heights a couple of years ago during the ice storm and rescued the stranded Birmingham work-release inmates abandoned by their employer, one of which was a diabetic with a broken leg.

Steve Watson  
Department of Corrections



May 2016

To Sammy Holdsambeck (Bibb County AFC), Juan Merriweather and Jeffery Baity (Dallas County AFC) Brent, Alabama:

Thank you tons for participating in this year's FAWN! We loved your presentation, as did the kids. Hope to see you next year!  
Oakmulgee Ranger District  
USDA Forest Service



June 2016

To the Bibb County AFC Brent, Alabama:

Thank you for your support in making the Central District FFA Eliminations a tremendous success. Through the giving nature of many individuals and groups, we were able to impact over 950 members, advisors, and supporters of Agriscience Education and FFA. I truly appreciate the part you played in making this event a success. I look forward to working with you again in the future. Thank you so much for your support of the Central District FFA.

Sincerely,  
Andy Chamness,  
Central District FFA Advisor  
Alabama FFA Association  
Agriscience Education  
Montgomery, Alabama



16 April 2016

To John Goff  
Montgomery, Alabama:

As the Communications Unit Leader for the 'Rising Angel' event in Hanceville, I would like to thank you for providing resources and personnel to accomplish the interoperable communications. Brad Smith acted as communications technician for the event and performed exceptionally in the role. We could not have provided reliable interoperable communications for the public safety personnel from the many local, state, and county responders without Brad's outstanding support.

Again thanks to you and the Alabama Forestry Commission for the outstanding support for 'Rising Angel.'

Sincerely,  
Ernie Blair  
Chief Executive Officer  
Director, Radio Infrastructure  
Huntsville-Madison County 9-1-1 System  
Huntsville, Alabama



April 2016

To Paul Williams  
Heflin, Alabama:

You and your staff have been on our property over a half dozen times during the three years we have owned it, and each time you left a thing of beauty! An improved road that needed water bars, a prescribed burn done right, or a new fire-