

In Their Own Words ...

Letters to the AFC

29 February 2016

To Greg Pate
Montgomery, Alabama:

I have been receiving burn permits from AFC via phone for many years. I contract out prescribed burning services for several landowners in Southeast Alabama – I've been a certified PBM for 20 years.

Saturday I called to obtain a burn permit for my personal property and spoke with Ms. Toria Elias. I want to let you know she was the most helpful, efficient, and pleasant person I've ever talked to with AFC – in terms of getting a burn permit, that is. Not that I've ever had a bad experience but she really stood out. For what it's worth, it is my opinion that she should be in charge of training each and every employee that issues burn permits via phone. She was that good.

I would imagine that you, like me, usually only hear from folks that have something to complain about. I did not want to miss this opportunity to praise a really good job from what is obviously a really good employee.

*Thanks for your time,
Bill Gray
Supervising Wildlife Biologist,
Wildlife District IV
Alabama Division Wildlife &
Freshwater Fisheries
Enterprise, Alabama*



01 March 2016

To the Editor:

I have been receiving Treasured Forests for many years and have been sharing it with students. Your magazine is very interesting and highlights how well Alabama works with industry as well as the public, and highlights Alabama's commitment to the environment.

*Thank you,
Ms. Shelly Roy
Instructional Leader
Agri-Science & Technology Dept.
Ledyard High School
Ledyard, Connecticut*

3 March 2016

To Robert Brown
Etowah County AFC:

I can't thank you or your father enough for the tour you gave us. It was a big success and we had great feedback from the brand owners. You made a big impression on McDonalds. Please let us know if there's something we can do to highlight the work you did [for] the Alabama Forestry Commission. And thanks again – it was a great pleasure working with you!

Sincerely,

*Nathan Truitt
Vice President of Development
American Forest Foundation
Washington, DC*



10 March 2016

To Greg Pate
Montgomery, Alabama:

I want to make sure you are aware of the recent program we hosted connecting major customers with family landowners and the role AFC played in it. The American Forest Foundation is grateful to AFC, specifically Robert Brown, who took the lead in organizing [a] field day for major brands like McDonald's, 3M, Mars Candy, Staples, and Time Warner. These customers of forest products from Alabama have an interest in better understanding management practices and landowner's land ethic. Robert put together a great experience for these people who play a critical role in the market place. They were very happy with the program.

Personally, I can't share enough how grateful I am. Robert was asked at the last minute for help and without hesitation he obliged and did a fantastic job. We asked a lot of him and he didn't hesitate to help.

*Chris Erwin
Director, Woodland Conservation
American Forest Foundation
Wetumpka, Alabama*



11 March 2016

To Benji Elmore
Grove Hill, Alabama:

Recently there was a forest fire break-out just off of County Road 1 in the northern part of Choctaw County. My family owns an interest in a tract of land that was near the fire. Lemoral Coleman from our local office and Bayne Moore from Marengo County responded to this fire and their professional and prompt actions contained the fire and prevented it from causing major damage on our family's property. I wanted to drop you a line to let you know how much we appreciate the job these two men performed and the professionalism and dedication they showed.

I thank you and your department for the continued work that you provide in our area.

*With kindest personal regards, I remain,
sincerely yours,
J. Lee McPhearson
Attorney at Law
Butler, Alabama*

