

Forestry Field Days Add to Fall Festivities

By Allen Varner, Stewardship Coordinator, Alabama Forestry Commission

Fall is always a busy time for folks that work out of doors. If you're a farmer, then you are bringing in the last crops of the season. If you're a hunter, you're scouting and searching for the perfect spot to harvest that trophy buck. But if you're one of the three fortunate landowners named as a Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest award winner last year, you may be the busiest of all as you prepare your place to receive 100 or more guests for one of the Regional Forestry Field Days.

Of course, you're not in this alone. Thanks to the strong efforts of the local forestry planning committees, what can start off as an overwhelming complicated project usually turns into a morning of fun, education, and comradery. Whether they go by the name of a resource council or a TREASURE Forest chapter, local planning committees know that the best way to tackle something such as a regional field day is to divide and conquer. Tasks are distributed among members and work is shared, making everyone's burden less and self-respect more.

This past October 5 in Henry County, the Alabama Natural Resources Council (ANRC), in conjunction with the Henry

County Conservation District, hosted the South Alabama Regional Forestry Field Day. The event was held near Abbeville at the Helene Mosley Memorial Award winning TREASURE Forest and 2017 Regional Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year of Glenn and Scarlett Riley . . . the same Rileys who were just named the 2017 NATIONAL Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year! Nearly 100 guests learned about feral hog control, gopher tortoises, and wildlife management.

The following week on October 12, the ANRC – along with the combined efforts of the Clay County TREASURE Forest Chapter and the Randolph County Forestry Planning Committee – hosted the Regional Forestry Field Day event for North Alabama. The tour was held at the beautiful Helene Mosley Memorial Award winning TREASURE Forest of Ronnie and Brenda Prince near Woodland in Randolph County. Over 110 tour attendees enjoyed learning about longleaf pine/prescribed burning, pre-commercial thinning, soil conservation and water quality relating to forest access roads, and wildlife habitat enhancement. Homemade ice cream put the finishing touches on a wonderful day in the woods.

October 2017 came to a close with the third and final event as the ANRC, working with the veteran Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee, hosted the Central Alabama Forestry Field Day on the Helene Mosley Memorial Award winning TREASURE Forest of Bill and Janet Dark called 'The Pike Place.' Beautiful weather complemented the day as 114 attendees toured the property learning about pine management, forestry insect identification and control, sustainable trail development, and the Coosa County Forestry Planning Committee's 'Adopt-a-School' program.

Fundamental to these field days is the TREASURE Forest Program, an excellent way to teach landowners about multiple use management. TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics for a Sustained Useable Resource. It is always a special moment when TREASURE Forest certificates are presented at the field days. This year, three TREASURE Forests certifications were awarded at the Central Field Day and one certification at the North Field Day. If you want to know more about the TREASURE Forest Program, contact your local AFC office. ☞

New TREASURE Forest Certifications

Congratulations to the 20 landowners who were recently awarded TREASURE Forest certification. With these new landowners and properties, 6,126 acres were added to the TREASURE Forest program in Alabama. Additionally, 12 landowners received re-certification for 4,292 acres.

Currently, Alabama has 2,120 TREASURE Forests with a total of 1,923,770 acres of forestland being managed under the guidelines of the TREASURE Forest program. ☞

CORRECTION: In the Spring 2017 issue, we incorrectly identified Mr. John Frank Farrow, new TREASURE Forest in Tallapoosa County. We apologize for this error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

NAME	COUNTY
Bennie Adams 'Plum Nellie Family Trust'	Hale
David Allen "Austin Family Investments, LLC"	Bullock
James E. Fleming	Geneva
Dr. Adair Gilbert 'Calumet Plantation'	Houston
Jim & Betty Hardage	Limestone
Governor Kay Ivey	Wilcox
Robert Keen 'Keen Family Farm'	Autauga
Geraldine Y. Lambert	Randolph
Jeremy Lowery	Fayette
Bernice E. Malone	Mobile
Richard McCain	Calhoun
Roger Minton	Pickens
Preston Phillips	Lamar
Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Porch 'The Sissy Farm'	Coosa
David Potts	Perry
Dr. James David Robinson, Jr.	Cherokee
James J. Schrenkel	Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Sloan	Lamar
Stephan S. Turnipseed	Montgomery/Bullock