

Alabama's TREASURED Forests

Fall • 1990



STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

by C.W. MOODY



Christmas in July! That is how I felt when you approved the landowner referendum by a 2-1 margin! This was done after all voters in the primary overwhelmingly approved the constitutional amendment authorizing a vote by landowners regarding the acreage assessment question.

I am deeply grateful to the people of Alabama who understood the need and to the landowners of Alabama who voted for the measure even though they will have to pay the bill. I am also very thankful for my associates in the Alabama Forestry Commission who have performed over the years in such manner as to justify this kind of trust and support.

Lest you misunderstand, my feelings of gratitude are not for me personally, but are on behalf of all Alabamians who will reap the benefits of your wisdom and generosity. Our forests are a tremendous resource for Alabama. This measure will without question make them more productive and enhance their other contributions to the quality of our environment and contribute to the general well-being of present and future generations of Alabamians.

It pleases me to think that TREASURE Forest owners led the way in this matter because of your vision and sense of responsibility toward others.

Keep on keeping on!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C.W. Moody". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

C.W. Moody
State Forester

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The Alabama Forestry Commission supports the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee's TREASURE Forest Program. This magazine is intended to further encourage participation in and acceptance of this program by landowners in the state. Any of the agencies listed above may be contacted for further information about the TREASURE Forest program.

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Cover photo: The colors of Alabama's forests change when the fall season arrives. Photo by Kenny Griffin.

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STEWARDSHIP: North Alabama Style

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor

When the Indians settled in what is now Southwestern Jackson County, they named the river and valley after the type of rock they noticed there. The agate, a semiprecious stone with a striped or clouded coloring, looked to them like rock which had been painted. They named the area after this “painted rock,” and the river became the Painted Rock River and the valley became Painted Rock Valley. Today, the community is known simply as Paint Rock.

It is in this community that Floyd and Louise Clemons have lived for 52 years. It is their home and the home of their 635-acre TREASURE Forest, which has also been certified as a Tree Farm.

Floyd Clemons first heard about the TREASURE Forest program from the Soil Conservation Service, who recommended him as a possible candidate. He was certified in 1979 as TREASURE Forest number 46, and has been recertified twice.

The Clemons’ property mainly consists of upland hardwoods, which is typical of the region where they live. There are some natural pine stands, however, and the Clemons have planted 26,000 pines. They were all planted by hand—5,000 seedlings a year during the mid to late fifties. These trees have been thinned twice and sold as pulpwood.

It is the hardwoods, though, that cover most of the hills and parts of the valley to provide a home for the different species of wildlife that make the area their home. In addition, the Clemons have also planted black walnut trees on several acres of the property. Enhancing the habitat for wildlife is the primary objective of this TREASURE Forest.

Mr. Clemons harvested some cedar trees in seven-year cycles and has several acres of excellent yellow poplars, oaks and persimmons. He won’t allow any skidders on the property and says when the time comes he



will select the trees to be cut they will harvested using horses or mules.

Clear Creek Hunting Club

The wildlife population wasn’t very high when Floyd Clemons first moved into the Jackson County area. He had hunted in South Alabama and saw there was the habitat for a substantial population of deer and other wildlife in North Alabama. The area was eventually stocked, and now there is a thriving deer population, as well as an abundance of other species of wildlife.

Mr. Clemons is a member of the Clear Creek Hunting Club which has built a clubhouse on his property. The 150 members have access to 4,500 acres of land, consisting of the Clemons’ property and adjoining land which is leased.

When the club started out 19 years ago, they let the deer population grow, killing no does for a period of time until enough were inhabiting the area. But even now, during doe season they allow no killing for the first two weeks because they feel the fawns need their

mothers close by. No hunting with dogs is ever allowed.

The deer population efforts have been successful. While in 1960 there were virtually no deer in the area, 99 were harvested last year. Turkeys have also been introduced to the area and are now well stocked.

The local game warden says they have the best organized club in the area. The majority of the people who are in the hunting club are from the Huntsville area, but there are also members from elsewhere in Alabama and from Tennessee and Florida. The members take great pride and care of the property where they hunt. There has never been a fire on the property they lease, and if they see a fire close by, they will assist in its suppression. Mr. Clemons says the landowners the club leases land from also appreciate the fact that the hunters never leave their litter in the woods.

One reason the club has been so successful, Mr. Clemons believes, is that there is a brotherly friendship among the members and a relaxing atmosphere. On several designated days during the year, the members gather to work and help manage the property for the benefit of wildlife. Many of the members have brought in permanent trailers and parked them next to the clubhouse. Water and electricity are available in 25 spaces.

About 25 acres of land are devoted to food plots. They tried planting soybeans in the spring, but found that the deer would eat them as soon as they came up. Now they plant wheat and clover. “We sow a lot of clover in the food plots,” Mr. Clemons said. “Sowing firebreaks also helps the fire protection, and the wildlife can use it also,” he added.

The club is incorporated with the state and each member must conform to the rules of the state as well as the rules of the hunting club. Each hunter must wear a badge with his name, address and telephone number. Before

going out, a pin is placed on a map showing where the hunter will be located that day. Then, if someone gets lost or there's an emergency, he can be located quickly.

The club is named after Clear Creek, which runs through the Clemons' property. At one time, when they first moved into the area, there was a tremendous problem with the creek flooding. Floyd Clemons was an instrumental player in the Paint Rock watershed project which, when completed, stopped Clear Creek from flooding.

He believes in the protection of the forest and has permanent firelanes on the property, especially where fire could rapidly burn upward along the terrain. So far he has been lucky and no fires have occurred.

Several acres of open land are managed for pasture and there are approximately 85 heads of cattle which graze the area.

On the steep terrain, Clemons has found that a four-wheeler allows him easy access to areas where driving a pickup would be difficult. He can find hunters or check on his cattle within a very short period of time.

Recreational Opportunities

When it's not hunting season, the Clemons' allow different groups to come and enjoy their TREASURE Forest. Church groups, hikers, horse-back riders and boy scouts are all welcome. "We just tell them not to throw their garbage down," Mr. Clemons said.

There are several caves on the property and three of them have been designated by the Civil Defense as fallout shelters. The "Blowing Cave" has been inspected and approved for 400 people to inhabit in case of an emergency. Stalactites and stalagmites have formed and a waterfall flows downward at least 15 feet in one cave. It is thought that Indians once inhabited the caves, but today you'd



probably find boy scouts camping out in them. Underneath a hole in the top of one cave is the perfect place for a campfire. The smoke is naturally drawn up and out, as if the hole was a chimney.

Walking up to one of the caves the air gets noticeably cooler and inside the temperature is at least 15 degrees lower than outside the cave. A natural air conditioner! Silent drips of water fall from stalactites inside the cave as ferns and other lush plants grow at the edge of it. A truly beautiful and peaceful place.

Passing the Stewardship Ethic

Clemons says that he has accomplished much of what he set out to do on his TREASURE Forest. "I've got it terraced, I've got it sowed, and I've got the firelanes." Most of his time is spent maintaining what he has, but he does have a project in mind that he wants to complete. Retainer walls along the creek that came down after

heavy rains need to be rebuilt, and he also wants to build a small dam to hold some water back and create a place for fishing—and for his grandchildren to play.

Floyd Clemons was asked one time to visit a school class and speak about TREASURE Forest. "I studied a whole lot about what I could tell the children, and I told them to just stop and think about how much you get from the forest . . . you can't hardly survive in this area without some wood, and the forest is where it comes from." He went on to stress to them the importance of taking care of our forests and what qualifications are needed to become certified as a TREASURE Forest. His mission was to let those children know the benefits we get from forests and the reasons we need them. In his own words, "It's a part of life; you've got to have it there, and the better you take care of it, the better it will take care of you." ♣



Floyd Clemons relaxes on the clubhouse porch.

Floyd Clemons' father came to Alabama from West Tennessee driving a covered wagon. His family, however, was sent to Florence, Alabama by train. The family moved around several times, and settled in Jackson County in 1929. Eventually the family bought 300 acres near the community of Paint Rock, and have added to that over the years.

Mr. Clemons says that during the depression there was no demand for farming, that they just grew what they needed. "In those days you could raise what you ate, raise what your stock ate, get through the winter and get ready to make another crop." He worked hauling ice around Scottsboro and Gurley in his early 20s and eventually bought an ice plant. When he sold the ice plant he came back to the farm and started raising cattle. He still enjoys this vocation today.

Louise Clemons was born and raised in Marshall County and went to the DAR school in Grant. She and Floyd married in 1939 and reared three children. Their two sons, Luther and Paul, are both engineers. Their daughter, Marie, is the city clerk at Woodville. "We never did have any trouble with any of the children," Floyd Clemons said. They are also proud of their eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Both the Clemons' are active in the



EDITOR'S UNDERSTORY

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor

community, and they especially enjoy socializing at the Senior Citizens Club in Paint Rock. For eight or nine years Floyd registered voters in the county and he continues to serve as a deputy registrar. The couple is also active in their church and they attend monthly meetings of the Democrat Executive Committee.

Mr. Clemons was one of the first people to learn about and utilize conservation techniques. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service out of Scottsboro for 22 years beginning in 1954, serving as a district supervisor. Many years ago he supported the idea that there should be an SCS office in every

county, and this is the case today.

Working for the SCS gave him an opportunity to work on several watershed projects, including the first watershed, which was at Clear Creek. There were several requirements that had to be met before the federal government would spend money for flood protection. One of those was that easements or right-of-ways on the affected property had to be attained. He spent many hours working out the logistic aspects of the watershed which had to be completed before the actual work could be done. "We worked out a lot of things here that I'm still proud of," he said.

The Clemons' TREASURE Forest was a district Helene Mosley Award Winner in 1985. Their property also served as one of the backdrops in a public service announcement where Iron Eyes Cody promoted the TREASURE Forest program. Mr. Clemons says Iron Eyes was impressed with how large some of his trees were. The Clemons' remember that day, not only for the excitement of cameras and a celebrity, but because the temperature was so extremely cold!

In the past, the Clemons' have been offered a lot of money for their property, and Mr. Clemons admits that for a fleeting moment it crossed his mind to sell. But he only gave it a brief consideration. "When you get to thinking about it, you know, this is home, and the children know that it's home."

Louise Clemons says a lot of people ask if the couple gets lonesome living in such a rural area, but she is quick to dispel that notion. "We don't think of getting lonesome," she said. Her husband agrees. "We've got too much to do to get lonesome!" ♣



Floyd and Louise Clemons

Evaluation of the Planting Job

by DAVID A. HOGE, Reforestation Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

In tree planting, the desired objective is a fully-stocked stand of healthy trees. The new plantation should be monitored to be sure the objective is met. The monitoring process begins shortly after the seedlings are planted.

After planting, sites should be periodically revisited to check for such things as animal damage, frost heaving and other unforeseen events.

After a full growing season, plantations should be checked to determine stocking, survival and release needs. Systematically spaced 1/100th-acre plots (see FIGURE 1) can be used to determine the number of live trees on the area as a whole, the areas needing replanting or release. Seedlings that are overtopped by competing vegetation are at risk of dying or having normal growth greatly reduced.

At each plot, a tally is made of the number of surviving tree seedlings. The average number of surviving trees per plot multiplied by 100 equals the number of surviving trees per acre.

Provided the initial planting density is known, the survival percentage can be computed by dividing the number of surviving trees per acre by the initial planting density, as shown in the sample survival check inspection form (see FIGURE 2).

Personnel of the Alabama Forestry Commission are available upon individual request to conduct survival check inspections. For an estimate of annual survival rates, contact Richard Cumbie at (205) 240-9346. ♣

Figure 1

John Q. Public
Area Size
50 acres

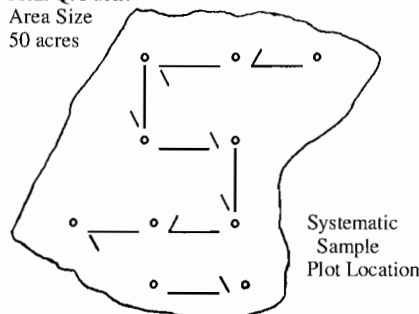


Figure 2

Survival Check Inspection Form

County: Montgomery
 Landowner: John Q. Public
 Field/Tract: Field 1: Old Cotton Field
 Location: Section, Township, Range
 Acres: 50
 Soil Type: Cuthbert

Check Appropriate Descriptions

ARCP Private W/O C/S Openland
 ACP Industry Wildland
 CRP
 FIP Machine Planting Hand Planting
 Subsoiling Recommended Subsoiling Done

Planting Information

Species Planted: Improved Loblolly Pine
 Average Number of Seedlings Planted Per Acre: 681
 Average Number of Seedlings Correctly Planted Per Acre: 633
 Percent Correctly Planted: 93%
 Herbaceous Weed Control Recommended: Yes—Arsenal
 Herbaceous Weed Control Done: Yes—Arsenal
 Chemical Used: Arsenal

Plot Information:

Plot #	#Seedlings/Plot	#Live Seedlings	#Dead Seedlings
1	7	7	0
2	6	6	0
3	7	6	1
4	5	4	1
5	8	7	1
6	6	6	0
7	8	5	3
8	6	6	0
9	7	7	0
10	6	6	0
Avg./ac.	660	600	

Observations of Live Seedlings

Healthy, good height growth, slight yellowing of needles due to chemical application

Believed Cause of Mortality

Improper planting of seedlings, such as shallow planting and "L" rooting, chemical concentration in one depression within field

Survival Information:

Average Number of Seedlings Surviving/Acre: 600
 Survival Percentage: 91%

OPEN BURNING AND OZONE



by Ludwig C. Hoffmann, III, Chief, Special Services Section, ADEM—Air Division

Several state agencies are involved with open burning in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has rules which specify what type of burning may be conducted and what fuels may be utilized. The ADEM also monitors air quality levels throughout the state and investigates reasons when established standards are threatened or not met. The ADEM has periodic contact with the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) on matters concerning open burning and air quality.

The ADEM Air Rules currently allow unrestricted open fires set for recognized agricultural, silvicultural, range, and wildlife management practices. This includes, of course, prescribed burning and clearing of land for replanting. Other unrestricted burning allowed includes fires for cooking, ceremonies, fire training and hazard abatement, disease and pest control, and warmth.

Other types of open burning not related to the above and for purposes such as construction and maintenance are restricted. Some

of these restrictions include the burning of wood only (no tires, asphalt products, scrap material, trash, or plastic), starting or adding to a fire only between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and locating the burning at least 500 feet away from a neighbor's house.

Restricted burning cannot be conducted when an air stagnation advisory is in effect. No outdoor burning of any type may be done when a drought emergency is in effect. In one instance we requested and were granted the cessation of silvicultural burning that was fumigating a small community. It



Outdoor burning requires a permit from the Alabama Forestry Commission.

should be noted that the ADEM Rules don't excuse any individual or business from complying with permit and other requirements of the Alabama Forestry Commission or local fire jurisdictions.

The ADEM is very comfortable with the permit system of the Alabama Forestry Commission. It is felt that the AFC system contributes to the reduction of illegal open burning and improves the way agricultural burning is conducted. Alabama Forestry Commission field personnel contact the ADEM about its Rules and report illegal open burning, usually of scrap materials.

They have been helpful in remote areas where ADEM inspectors are not immediately available.

The ADEM is a regulatory agency and, as such, has certain options to enforce its regulations. It can verbally warn, write various levels of enforcement letters, or issue administrative orders with or without monetary penalty, a maximum of \$25,000 per day. As a last resort a civil suit can be initiated. We believe in adequate warning with penalties being the result of continued violations.

The monitoring of air quality levels in the state has determined there are two areas that briefly exceeded allowable ozone standards in recent years—Jefferson and surrounding counties, and Montgomery and surrounding counties. Ozone levels above the standard can cause respiratory problems in children, older adults, those with debilitating respiratory conditions, and healthy adults under physical stress such as exercising. Elevated ozone levels are linked to decreased yields from and damage to crops and vegetation, including trees. It also contributes to the visibility impairment associated with smog.

Ozone levels above the standard trigger actions to reduce these levels. These include automobile inspections (emission control systems), tighter control of large sources, and establishing controls on new, smaller sources, plus a curb on industrial expansion and development.

Ozone forms when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) react in the presence of sunlight. The primary culprit in causing ozone is transportation. Taking the Montgomery area as an example, 58 percent of the VOCs and most of the NO_x come from transportation sources. It is interesting to note that the second largest constituent (14 percent) of VOCs comes from open burning. Other smaller contributors include industrial boilers, dry cleaners, gas stations, coating operations, and a large bakery.

Users of solvents, fuel marketing activities and transportation will likely be targeted for controls/action in the Birmingham and Montgomery areas. Open burning, including silvicultural burning may also be targeted. In certain respects, the individuals and companies that open burn in the affected areas have an opportunity to reduce their contribution to ozone formation. The biggest contribution would be to conduct the majority of the open burning, including silvicultural burning, during cold weather; optimally from December through February, or at least not burning during the worst ozone-forming months, June through August.

The measures which will be necessary to achieve the ozone air quality standard will be significant. Voluntary measures by those involved in silvicultural burning to minimize the generation of the VOCs during the summer months should reduce the need for regulatory action by the Department ♠

ALABAMA BLACK BEARS *Live In Harmony With Man*

by J.L. DUSI, Professor of Zoology and Wildlife Science,
Auburn University

The black bear, the largest carnivore in the Eastern United States, is a notable part of Alabama's wildlife heritage. Bears were once common in the state, but as forests were cut and agriculture developed, bears became isolated in the swamps and forested river bottoms mainly along the Mobile, Tensaw, Tombigbee, and Alabama rivers in Southwestern Alabama. Though the recent return of agricultural land to forests has enlarged the statewide range of black bears, most Alabamians will never see one because these animals are so shy.

Because of increased highway mortality of bears in the state and newspaper reports of sightings, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Natural Resources, conducted a black bear ecology study. Most of the field work was done in a 25-square-mile area located northwest of Saraland in Mobile County.

Five bears were trapped during the study and were sedated, measured, and fitted with radio collars. A small tooth was extracted from each to help determine the bears' ages. The radio-tagged bears were tracked and their winter and summer home ranges determined. The habitat where bears were most frequently found was analyzed and their food habits studied by examining their fecal pellets.

The largest summer home range (8 square miles) was that of a 2-year-old

male. The summer range for four females varied from 0.9 to 7.2 square miles. Winter ranges for all bears varied from 0.1 to 0.4 square miles.

The bears did not hibernate in winter, but stayed in the swamps, moving little, unless disturbed. They were not typical carnivores because they fed on acorns, berries, or fruit during most of the year, and ate many insects, especially beetles.

The key to bear abundance in Southwestern Alabama appears to be the extensive area of swamps, with thick shrubby undergrowth of titi that is impenetrable without using a machete. Titi makes a safe retreat for bears, but unfortunately, in Alabama, it occurs only in swampy areas in southwestern counties.

Despite increasing numbers and distribution, black bears in Alabama are still mainly confined to the southwestern counties. Bears statewide are protected by state game laws and violators have been prosecuted. Results of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station study indicate that human contact with bears is limited to cases in which bears seek food from open garbage, honey from bee hives, or stored corn. In such cases, electric fences have proven effective in keeping bears out.

*Reprinted with permission from **Highlights of Agricultural Research**, vol. 37, no. 1, a publication of Auburn University. ♠*

Tax Tips For Alabama Landowners

by L. LOUIS HYMAN, Chief, Forest Information

The whole area of taxes and forestry is complicated and getting worse. Many taxes affect forestland management: income taxes, estate taxes, property taxes and severance taxes, to name a few. The purpose of this article is to look at federal income tax laws and how they impact three main types of income and expenses in forestry: timber sale income, reforestation, and management costs.

Timber Income

The biggest tax consideration regarding forestry income is capital gains treatment of timber sale income. Since 1986, long term capital gains from selling timber or any other asset is taxed at the ordinary tax rates.

It is important to note that capital gains treatment was not abolished, it just lost much of its benefit. Landowners who sell timber still should report any timber sale income as a capital gain. There are several benefits of capital gains treatment still available. A key benefit is that the capital gains rate is fixed at a maximum rate of 28 percent. Ordinary income can be taxed at a higher rate of 33 percent for income over \$72,000. So a good size sale, when added to regular income, could easily put you in this higher bracket. Using capital gains treatment can save five percent on larger timber sales.

Another key benefit of capital gains treatment is avoiding social security and self employment taxes on timber sale income. If a timber sale is considered ordinary income, then the seller must pay a self employment tax on that income. The net self-employment tax rate is 13.02 percent for income over \$400 up to a total income of \$48,000. Capital gains income is not subject to this tax.

So, to summarize, please report all timber sale income as capital gains. It

may not save you directly against your federal income tax, but it will save you money on the other taxes and penalties.

Reforestation

Reforestation is the largest expenditure that a forest landowner will face. The federal tax benefits for tree planting are some of the few benefits that survived tax reform. Landowners who plant trees are eligible for a reforestation tax credit and amortization.

If you paid for site preparation, tree planting, trees, seeds and labor, and first year cultural treatments (herbaceous weed control) during 1990, you can claim a tax credit of 10 percent of the first \$10,000 in reforestation costs. In addition, you can amortize (deduct) 95 percent of these cost over the next seven years.

So if, for example, a landowner spent \$9,000 for site prep and planting, he can get a tax credit of \$900 against other taxes owed. He can also take a deduction of \$610 this year (one half of $\frac{1}{7}$ of 95% of \$9,000) and \$1,220 for the next six years (and the last \$610 in the seventh year) for reforestation.

The total amount eligible for the tax credit and amortization is limited to \$10,000 per year. However, larger expenses can be spread over two years and be covered. For example, on a large job, the landowner can pay for the site preparation in December, 1990, and then for the tree planting in March, 1991. He would be limited to \$10,000 for 1990 and another \$10,000 for 1991.

To take the tax credit, a landowner needs to fill out Form 3468. To take the amortization deduction, simply include the amount on line 30 of the regular tax form (1040). Write the amount and reforestation on the dotted line next to line 30.

Landowners who receive cost-share assistance from a state or federal pro-

gram may report the payment as ordinary income. Some of the payment may be excluded from taxable income if timber was sold within the last three years. However, any payment excluded cannot count towards the tax credit and amortization. Generally, for most taxpayers, it is best to count the cost share payment as income and then be able to take the full reforestation tax credit and amortization.

“You need to plan and keep good records of your forest management activities.”

If you participated in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on your farm, you must report all payments as income. Farmers, however, may deduct all of their CRP expenses in the same year, up to a maximum of 25 percent of gross farm income. So if the farm earned \$40,000 last year, the farmer may deduct \$10,000 of reforestation or other soil and water conservation expenses. Any reforestation costs above the 25 percent limit qualify for the reforestation tax credit and amortization.

Management Costs

Management costs are the annual expenses of owning forestland. These include property taxes, mortgage interest, cultural treatments, repairs and maintenance.

All property taxes are fully deductible as an itemized deduction. Mortgage interest is deductible if it applies to a primary residence or a second vacation home. If the forestland has a house and you spend significant time there, the mortgage interest may be deductible. If not, the interest is considered to be personal interest and



Reforestation is the largest expenditure that a forest landowner will face.

only 10 percent is deductible in 1990 (and not deductible at all in 1991).

Other management costs that may be expensed include such things as management fees, repairs and maintenance of roads, fences and firelanes, prescribed burning costs, timber stand improvement costs, and wildlife management expenses. You may also expense small hand tools, and any travel costs to and from the property and to and from educational programs.

Your status: ACTIVE, PASSIVE or INVESTOR

Your ability to deduct these management costs depends on which management class you fit into: are you an INVESTOR, are you an ACTIVE MANAGER, or are you a PASSIVE MANAGER. Each class must treat its expenses differently.

INVESTORS: These are people who exercise no management over their land; they put up the money, hold the property for a period and then sell it (or the timber) to recover their funds and any profit. All management costs for this group are considered a miscellaneous itemized deduction. It is reported on Schedule A, but it is subject to two percent floor. That is, you may not deduct any expenses less than two percent of your adjusted gross income. The amount of deductions below the floor are lost.

PASSIVE MANAGERS: These people own the land, but only exercise

limited management. They let other people do the management and the work. All management costs for this group are limited to the amount of passive income (such as rents) the landowner receives. Any expenses above this must be carried over until enough income is earned.

ACTIVE MANAGERS: These people own the land and exercise substantial management. In IRS terms, they materially participate in a

regular, continuous, and substantial manner. All management costs for this group are fully deductible and are reported on either Schedule C or F or Form T.

The difference between an active and a passive manager is based on two main factors: whether the landowner has decision-making power over the property, and how much time the landowner spends managing the land. By the IRS rules, if you and your spouse spend more than 500 hours per year on the property, you are automatically an active manager. If on the other hand, you spend less than 100 hours per year, you are automatically a passive manager, UNLESS you did substantially all of the work that year yourself. If you and your spouse spend more than 100 hours, you can be an active manager if no one else does more than you on the property. The rules say that you must meet this test five out of 10 years. The big point is that you need to plan and keep good records of your forest management activities.

To Summarize

- Take capital gains.
- Take reforestation tax credit and amortization.
- Report cost share payments.
- Keep good records so that you can be considered an active manager.
- Get help from a tax accountant that understands forest tax rules. ♣



WISE USE *of* AMERICA'S FORESTS

National Forest Products Week October 21-27, 1990

RABIES...

A Preventable Disease

by TILDA MIMS, Information Specialist, Tuscaloosa

Most of what we've heard about rabies is true. It is a serious disease spread through the saliva of infected animals. Many animals in the final stages of rabies will drool and foam at the mouth, and the treatment of human exposure to the disease is a series of injections.

But how much do we know about other signs and symptoms of the disease? What precautions will help avoid rabies? What emergency measures should we take if exposed to a rabid animal? Is rabies a threat in Alabama?

Many common myths and misconceptions surround rabies. By knowing more about this serious disease, it can be prevented.

What Is Rabies?

Rabies is an acute viral disease that attacks the central nervous system. It may affect all species of warm-blooded animals, including man. Rabies is a highly infectious disease, with death usually caused by cardiac or respiratory failure.

It normally passes from animal to animal through bites. Animals with rabies can have the virus in their saliva. Then if a person is bitten or licked, the rabies disease can be transmitted.

Drooling and foaming at the mouth only happens some of the time in rabid animals, and then only in the final stages. Rabid animals may stagger, appear restless, be aggressive, act overly friendly, change the tone of their barks or howls, or appear to be choking.

In short, animals that appear or act abnormal should be avoided.

About 85 percent of all cases of animal rabies occur in wild animals. The worst culprits, in order of in-

cidence of disease nationwide, are skunks, raccoons, bats, cattle, foxes, cats and dogs. Coyotes, horses and bobcats may also carry the disease.

Wallace Birch, state public health veterinarian, reported 116 positive cases of animal rabies in Alabama during 1989. Raccoon rabies was the most common, with 78 cases confirmed in the southeastern counties. Florida and Georgia counties adjoining that area of Alabama reported 29 cases of rabies in raccoons (see map).

The high incidence of rabies in raccoons in southeastern Alabama is the result of a large raccoon population in that area, according to Dr. Birch.

Other positive rabies specimens were the following: 19 bats, eight fox, five dogs, four cats and, notably, two fox squirrels.

Squirrels and other members of the rodent family, such as rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, and rabbits are rarely afflicted with the disease. However, Dr. Birch notes that in addition to the rabid squirrels found in 1989, there have been three more fox squirrels confirmed as rabid in the first six months of 1990.

"This has really changed our thinking about rodent rabies. Squirrel hunters should make certain their game is dead before handling, and be extremely careful when skinning and eviscerating the animal. Cuts and wounds may be exposed to the body fluids of the animal." If properly cooked, Dr. Birch says, the meat will be safe to eat.

What to Do if Exposed

When someone is bitten or licked by a potentially rabid animal, or when they suspect such contact, it is called

"exposure."

The first emergency measure should be to thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water. The immediate follow-up is an examination by a physician.

The doctor will evaluate many important factors before determining treatment.

- Was the bite from an animal highly susceptible to rabies?
- If a domestic animal, was it acting strangely?
- Was the bite or lick near a wound, mouth, nose or eyes?

Many people have heard or read that treatment for rabies exposure is a series of painful shots in the stomach. That is no longer true.

Since 1980, in the United States, post-exposure treatment has consisted of only five shots in the arm. A shot of specific anti-rabies globulin is also administered once in the hip at the start of the treatment.

How Is Rabies Confirmed?

Physicians treating animal bites are required to report the cases immediately to the local health department. A health department representative will contact the bite victim concerning the location and condition of the suspect animal.

The Alabama rabies law requires all animals biting a human to be evaluated for rabies immediately following the bite. In the case of domestic pets, the evaluation may be made by a licensed veterinarian. Wild animals may only be evaluated in a laboratory.

"Cats and dogs can secrete the rabies virus for two to five days prior to the onset of symptoms, and conceivably can survive for two to seven

more days," says Dr. Birch. For this reason, cats and dogs may be confined and observed for 10 days by a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian will evaluate the animal regularly. If signs of rabies appear, the animal may be humanely killed and the brain tissue analyzed for rabies before treatment is recommended.

Almost all diagnoses of animal rabies is based on a positive result of a direct fluorescent-antibody testing of brain tissue.

The cost of the veterinarian's observation is the responsibility of the animal owner. The brain tissue analysis is performed by the health department at no charge.

In the case of stray or unwanted cats and dogs, the brain may be immediately submitted to the local health department for testing.

"Wild animals, even if kept as pets, are treated differently. We don't know the period of secretion in wildlife, the incubation period varies to a tremendous degree, and wild animals have been known to actually recover from rabies, appear quite healthy, and yet continue to secrete the virus for an unlimited period of time," warns Birch.

If a wild animal is dead, it is important to save it for examination. If the animal is alive, try to capture it for testing by authorities.

If capturing the wild animal is not practical, be careful not to destroy the animal in such a way that the head is damaged. Remove the head low enough from the animal to keep the salivary glands intact.

Place the head in two plastic bags, and pack it in enough ice to keep it cold. If you will be unable to get to the health department for several days, it is acceptable to freeze the head.

In the case of small animals, such as bats, the entire animal may be shipped intact.

Precautions

According to Dr. Birch, rabies is an endemic disease in Alabama. "We haven't had a year since records have been kept where there was no case of rabies. My best advise to forest land-owners and forestry personnel when encountering a suspected rabid animal is to avoid it unless you are able to kill and bury it. If burying the animal would require handling, kill it and leave it there."

It is also important to have all pets

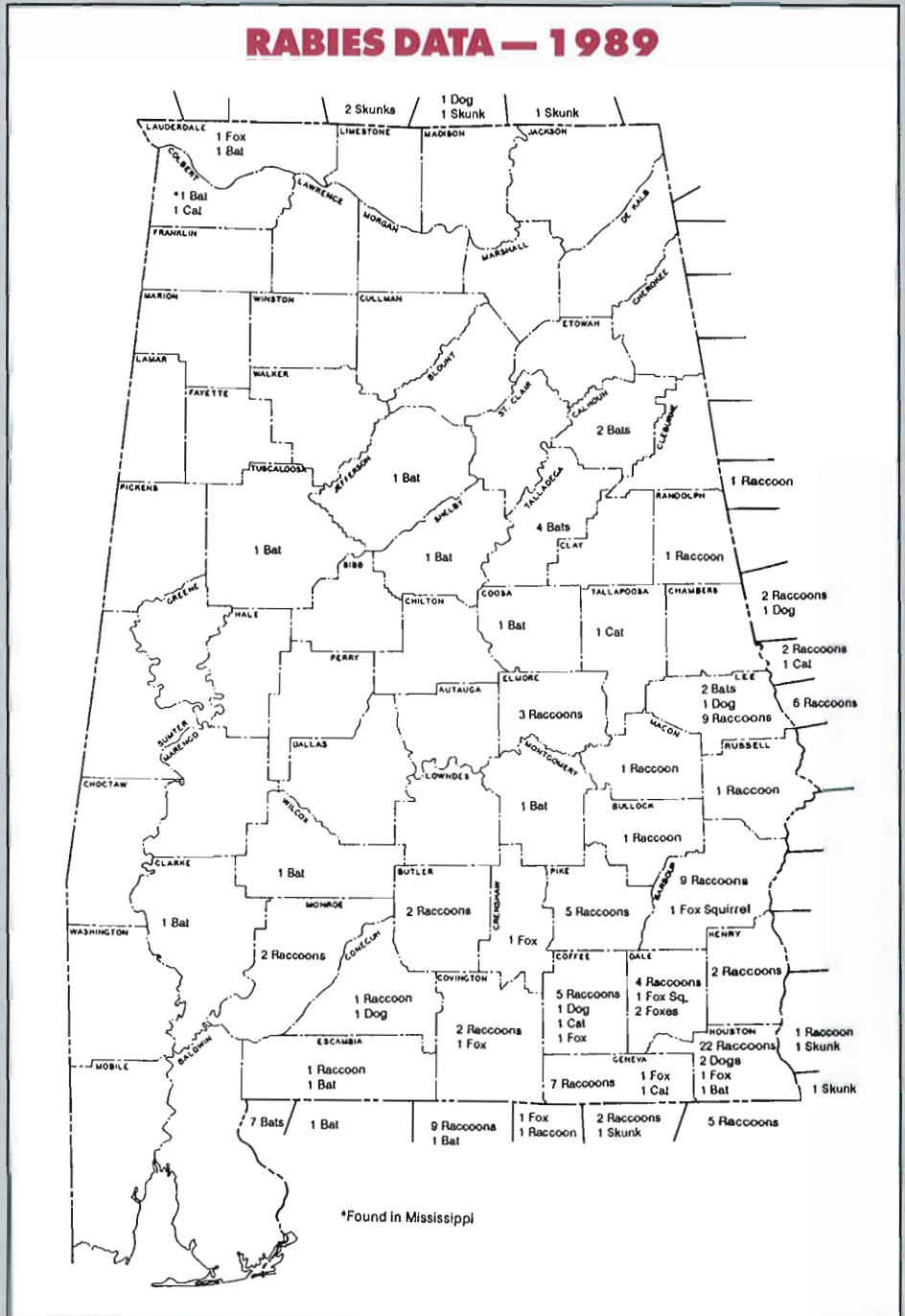
immunized. "Pet immunization improves the chances they won't get rabies. Rabies shots have a booster effect, so the protection against rabies improves over the life of the animal," according to Birch.

Although increased pet vaccinations and tighter animal control laws are doing a good job in holding down the threat of rabies, the problem still exists.

Forestry personnel, forest land-owners and anyone who enjoys spending time in the outdoors are among those at risk of rabies exposure. To prevent this disease, we must all consider precautions:

1. Avoid strange-acting animals, both wild and domestic. A raccoon that acts friendly or is seen in the daytime is unusual.
2. Have your pets vaccinated regularly.
3. Contact your local health department to determine if an animal is rabid, and your doctor to determine if a bite is serious.
4. Know what to do if exposed to rabies.

For anyone at risk of getting rabies, taking these precautions makes good common sense. ♣



HAVE LOGS WILL TRAVEL?

by JIM GOBER, Alabama Forestry Commission and
GARY FAULKNER, Alabama Development Office

Alabama can be very proud. The state's heritage of forestry and forest products has brought invaluable economic and industrial opportunities to her citizens. Economic contributors such as payroll (\$1.4 billion), direct jobs (more than 65,000), and diversified manufacturers (1,000 plus), have been well documented. But how much growth can the forest industry achieve? Can the state's forest resources afford greater expansion? Should the state continue to export her forest products, particularly the raw—or non value-added—products? These and other questions are now being raised due to the increase in forest product exports at the Port of Mobile and new foreign investment in the state. This article attempts to discuss the issues of Alabama's international opportunities regarding raw and finished forest products.

The facts tell us that forest products trade is a very important business opportunity for Alabama's economy. In 1988, for example, Alabama exported forest products worth more than \$343 million. The top importing countries served by the Port of Mobile were Japan (pulp and paper), West Germany (pulp and paper), Mexico (pulp and paper), Taiwan (lumber), Spain (lumber), Japan (lumber), Canada (furniture), Bahamas (furniture), and Saudi Arabia (furniture). Most of these importing countries in 1988 were shipped bulk-handled forest products such as (in descending order of top ten tonnages) wood pulp, logs and lumber, plywood, poles, ties, and chips, kraft linerboard, pulpwood chips, chip board, newsprint, carton stock, and miscellaneous other products.

In 1989, the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway shipped approximately 1.7 million tons of forest products, 33 per-

cent of all shipments on the waterway. Of the 1.7 million tons, approximately 424,000 tons (or 25 percent) of the forest products consisted of logs. An unknown amount of this tonnage was designated for export markets. In a previous *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* article, entitled *Alabama's Timberland: Can It Support Industry?* (see Summer, 1990), discussion was given to the state's capacity for industrial expansion. The article stated that Alabama was not running out of trees nor was the state depleting the resource based on U.S. Forest Service statistics for Alabama. In fact, timber owners have been stockpiling volume each year since the surveys began in 1952. An interesting note is that 64 percent of the volume increase occurred on lands of private nonindustrial timberland owners.

This, of course, among other gains, generates jobs, facilitates taxes, and motivates landowners to manage timberlands for their highest return on investment. The stump-to-market process represents private enterprise, supply and demand, and free market opportunities. In Alabama, we desire the least amount of interruptions for the business of our forest industries. Also, there is no public trade policy which restricts private landowners from marketing unprocessed raw materials for export trade.

In Alabama, 95 percent of all commercial timberlands are owned by private timberland owners. It would seem that reducing timberland owners' markets for their timber products by restricting export trade discriminates against timberland owners. The question must then be asked—why motivate timberland owners for proper forest management and reforestation if

regulations or restrictions close part of the free enterprise market system?

However, the free flow of timber raw materials to markets should generate as much value-added to the local and state economy as possible to facilitate new and existing industrial expansions and opportunities. If an imbalance should occur which diverts timber raw materials from their highest manufacturing potential, existing industry could be negatively impacted. There should be an optimum balance of the utilization of these timber resources for both domestic and international trade use.

What of the argument of trading unprocessed logs to out-of-state manufacturing processors? In 1989, severance tax figures show that 380,098 MBF of pine logs and 67,553 MBF of hardwood logs were transported from Alabama to adjacent states for timber processing. In this case, doesn't this parallel international trade considerations, except that we are shipping out-of-state rather than out-of-country? No southern state would desire the imbalance of having only a primary processing industry manufacturing base. That is why we enjoy friendly, but regionally important industrial development recruiting and marketing activities/programs.

If, for example, international interests desire the region's prime hardwood red oak logs, then there must be a market need for the value-added products. It would then seem incumbent upon us, the southern U.S., to recruit and attract the end-use manufacturers to locate close to the required timber resources. These reverse investment opportunities should not be overlooked. Alabama is actively recruiting these value-added manufacturers.

Wood chip exports has been the controversial lightning rod for forest products. District Port of Mobile figures for 1989 show that roughly 400,000 short tons of wood chips (green) were exported (source—Journal of Commerce/P.I.E.R.S.) which equals to approximately 143,000 cords. This is about 1.3 percent of the 11,173,000 cords reported by the American Pulpwood Association utilized by all of Alabama's pulp and paper mills for 1989.

In addition, many of these wood chips were sourced from Mississippi forests. This would hardly indicate that we are selling out our forest resources at this point to international interests. By far the predominate use of Alabama's wood fiber forest resources are utilized for the domestic pulp and paper mill industry. Of course, both markets are viable for Alabama's 220,000 plus small nonindustrial timberland owners.

The greater the markets for timberland owner resources, the greater the price competition for their timber. The dilemma may be that one industrial competitor is outbidding another for the same resource. What is best for the timberland owner? We suggest a long-term balance and strategy of various markets for their timber. This could include both international and domestic markets with an emphasis on in-state value-added utilization with Alabama's existing manufacturers.

With every competitor for a raw material, there are trade-offs. In forest industry development and trade activities, local and state developers need to know and create the awareness that those who seek one type of benefit from the forest may compete with those who seek another. At present, primary unprocessed timber resources (such as logs) being shipped for international trade is relatively small in Alabama. There is a place for such trade to exist in a free market system; however, a

balance must exist to establish long-term market competition (not 100 percent international trade or 100 percent domestic).

Alabama has a large bulk-handling port facility at Mobile, which facilitates itself towards those appropriate forest products. However, the state actively solicits and encourages value-added trade and investment opportunities. Each state has a very active and important responsibility concerning the needs of economic and industrial forest industry development and trade.

It would seem that each southern state's priorities need to be oriented to the basics of reforestation, intensive forest management, proper protection and utilization of their forest resources, and adequate markets for each respective state's forest landowners. If we allow the free market system to work with private enterprise (with traditional supply and demand influences), responsibility to private non-industrial timberlandowners should be fulfilled. But if we begin tinkering with various market restrictions which impact the flow of business opportunities, we may end up losing more potential than we gain.

Many third world countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia are restricting log exports. The reason for these restrictions is based in part on their lack of forest industry development for manufacturing. However, the southern U.S., particularly Alabama, has an intensive and competitive forest industry infrastructure. Procurement of these timber raw materials in Alabama is very competitive. Also, timber resources should stand the test of world

standards. For example, one reason for increased wood chip procurement in the southern U.S. is because the price of chips is financially feasible for the international market (particularly for the Japanese).

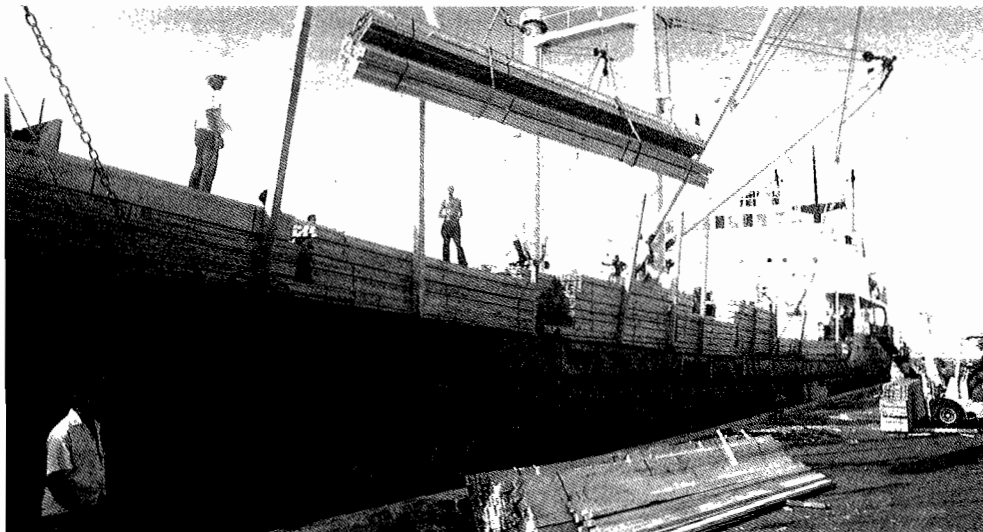
As we become more involved in international business, the South's resources and products will be examined even more closely regarding their trading viability. The question may need to be asked—are our timber resources more valuable in a world market perspective? At the expense of the private non-industrial timberland owners and private enterprise, do we prohibit or restrict quality log exports or wood chips to international end users? We feel the answer is that everyone should be able to compete for the resource equally. If we do not, then where would we draw the line?

However, not to be naive of international reciprocity of free trade, other importing countries need to be sensitive of fair play. It is important that importing countries are open to U.S. value-added forest products which are not penalized by unfair duties or tariffs. Tariff or non-tariff barriers should not restrict the flow of U.S. value-added forest products (example—the Japanese have recently reduced their tariffs on U.S. forest product imports).

In closing, it is important to concentrate on each state's ultimate private client—the small nonindustrial private timberland owner. For their perspective, each state should enhance the marketing activities which will bring the greatest motivating factors to their landowners. Hopefully, sound forest management and reforestation will fol-

low the footsteps of competitive and diversified markets.

We must find our balance of trade and investment in the business of forestry and wood products. We cannot escape being a part of a world economy, particularly in the southern U.S. There are more opportunities than obstacles! ♠



Solid wood products being loaded in Mobile.

LANDO

LEGISLATIVE
ALERT

NATIONAL by TERRI BATES, Washington Representative, National Association of State Foresters

When Congress recessed for the month of August, action on the 1990 Farm Bill was progressing well. The House and Senate passed individual bills, both of which included a progressive Conservation Title and the first ever Forestry Title. However, Congress fell far behind on meeting budget deadlines for completing a fiscal year 1991 budget by October 15. With serious federal deficit questions left unresolved by Congress and the Administration, federal programs may face very significant across-the-board cuts this fall.

Privat Forestland Management

The nation has become increasingly aware that private forestlands will need to provide the public's growing demands for both commodity and non-commodity resources in the future. Because of this reality, Congress began shaping a national policy concerning how private forestlands should be managed and protected through the Forestry Title.

Major elements that have evolved in both the House and Senate Forestry Titles include the following: fire and pest protection, cost-share assistance for stewardship practices, urban forestry, disaster assistance, new research initiatives, and an easement program to protect existing forestlands threatened by development.

Additionally, President Bush's proposed initiative to plant and improve more than one billion trees a year throughout America's community and rural areas was incorporated into the Forestry Title. "America the Beautiful," which the Administration proposed to fund at \$175 million a year, when coupled with stewardship protection and management, is a very comprehensive approach for improving our nation's forest resources.

Both House and Senate Forestry Titles include major provisions introduced by Representative **Claude Harris** (D-AL) and Senator **Howell Heflin** (D-AL) that provide greater assistance to rural volunteer fire departments and state forestry agencies. Both the House and Senate Forestry Titles include elements of a bill (*H.R. 3454*) introduced by Representative **Sonny Callahan** (R-AL) which would establish a national Forest Stewardship Program to provide management assistance to private forest landowners. The program is modeled after the TREASURE Forest program and is aimed at managing forest resources for multiple objectives including timber, wildlife, soil, water and recreation.

Both bills establish a Stewardship Incentives Program which would provide federal cost-share assistance to private landowners. Stewardship activities and practices could include setting up wildlife plots, creating windbreaks and shelterbelts, restoring wetlands and managing outdoor recreational opportunities.

A State Level Stewardship Advisory Committee would be created in both the House and Senate bills to help establish individual state goals and objectives for the unique resources of that state. One key feature of the committee would be the diversity of its membership. Representatives from the public at large, local government, forest industry, forest landowners, conservation groups and both state and federal natural resources agencies would all be included.

Congress intends to set up a new pilot program called the Forest Legacy Program in the Senate and the Forest Reserve Program in the House, which would help protect existing private forestlands from conversion to development uses. Easements on private lands would be purchased by federal and in-

novative combinations of state, local and private financing to provide this protection.

Pest Management provisions differ markedly between the House and Senate. The Senate provides for expanded forest health monitoring activities, an effort currently confined to the northeast. The House provides increased assistance for the suppression of southern pine beetle, gypsy moth and spruce budworm for states with established integrated pest management programs.

Research initiatives also vary between the two bills. The Senate Title authorizes the establishment of a Southern Forest Regeneration expected to be located at Auburn University, Alabama. The House Title supports research for a timber bridges program, wood products recycling, private forest stewardship management, and improved research for inventory and analysis on forested lands throughout the country.

Reforestation assistance following a natural disaster would be authorized, although provisions between the House and Senate differ. Urban forestry provisions addressing the nation's community's forests are also included in both bills. Measures include technical and financial assistance, a grant program and the establishment of national advisory council.

A provision in the House would establish a Presidential Commission to study the needs of state and private forestlands. A miscellaneous provision in the Senate Title would expand the Talladega National Forest in Alabama.

Conservation Titles

The House and Senate Conservation Titles authorize the continuation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through 1995. The Senate allows the



WINNERS

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary to expand the CRP beyond its 40 million acres to 50 million acres; the House would limit its expansion to 45 million acres. To date, 34 million acres have been enrolled, two million of which have been planted in trees. Over the last five years, 52 percent of Alabama's 540,021 total enrolled CRP acres were planted to trees.

Additional incentives to increase tree planting nationally are provided through both bills. For the first time, marginal pasturelands would be eligible for the CRP if trees were planted, although House language currently requires marginal pasturelands be in or adjacent to riparian areas. New incentives designed to encourage planting hardwoods, windbreaks and shelterbelts include longer contract periods, allow cost-sharing for maintenance from two to four years, planting over a three-year period, and CRP grass acres to be converted to windbreaks, shelterbelts and wetlands. Easements would be required where CRP acres were converted to windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wetlands.

The Conservation Titles have been refocused to more fully address the concerns of water quality and protection of wetlands. The Senate Title sets up a Wetlands Reserve Program to restore and protect a minimum one mil-

lion acres of wetlands through easements. Both bills include incentives to producers to implement water quality protection plans.

The differences that exist between the House and Senate bills will be addressed through a House/Senate conference committee which was expected to begin meeting sometime in September.

Appropriations

Although the budget process is moving at a much slower pace than the Farm Bill, the House has begun action on two appropriations bills that affect forestry programs. Funding levels for the Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs, which direct assistance to the states, are similar if not slightly better than last years levels. Other forestry-related programs including the Forestry Incentives Programs (FIP), Rural Community Fire Protection, and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) also received favorable levels.

In June, the Secretary of Agriculture recommended a bold new agenda for the U.S. Forest Service to follow in the 1990s. As required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the Forest Service engages in long-range planning to pro-

vide policy guidance for the next five years based on a five-decade look into the future. The 1990 RPA Program is a strategic plan for the conservation and wise use of the Nation's National Forests and Grasslands, assistance to State and Private Forestry and Research.

High priority themes that will be pursued by the agency include recreation, wildlife, and fisheries resource enhancement; environmentally acceptable commodity production; improved scientific knowledge; and response to global resource issues. The program places increased emphasis on State and Private Forestry by recommending increased assistance for multiple-resource forest management plans which would be developed to achieve landowner's management objectives and to provide stewardship of all natural resources; increased technical and financial assistance to nonindustrial private forestland owners for implementing management activities; and expansion of partnerships with other agencies.

The outlook for the Fall Congressional agenda is hectic, as members are faced with completing budget negotiations, appropriations and farm bill conferences, and for many, elections in November. ♦

STATE by FRANK SEGO, Legislative Liaison, Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama's forest landowners gave themselves a well-deserved present for the future when they overwhelmingly approved an acreage assessment measure that will ensure there is forest fire protection in each of the state's 67 counties.

The long and arduous process began several years ago when the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) realized that local option legislation was not

creating enough revenue to bolster its fire protection program. A 1955 act of the legislature had given counties the authority to assess forestland at a rate up to 5 cents an acre when deemed necessary by the county's governing body at the request of the then Forestry Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation And Natural Resources. It was later amended for a maximum to be set by the county through

local legislation.

By 1989 only 35 counties had adopted some level of assessment, ranging from two to 15 cents an acre. In a move to unify the assessment for all counties, the Commission went to the legislature with a bill calling for a constitutional amendment that would allow forest landowners across the state to assess



themselves a minimum of 10 cents, up to a maximum of 20 cents per acre for forest fire protection and other vital forestry services, such as disease control and management assistance.

Voters Show Support

The amendment was guided through the legislature by Senator **Ann Bedsole** of Mobile and Representative **Nolan Williams** of Newton. That action allowed the amendment to be placed on the primary ballot on June 5, 1990. Alabama voters gave a resounding YES to this amendment (No. 3), paving the way for a forest landowner referendum to be held six weeks later.

The July 17th landowner referendum was announced by the Forestry Commission by legal notices published three consecutive weeks in newspapers of general circulation in each county. The Commission followed up with newspaper articles, backed by radio and television editorials explaining the need for the assessment.

Overwhelming Acceptance

Polling places were established in each of the AFC county offices under the watchful eye of a pollworker appointed by the Probate Judge of each county. Landowners responded in every county. The results favored the assessment by a substantial margin of two-to-one.

The heavy sigh of relief by State Forester **Bill Moody** was heard throughout the state. The AFC at long last had gained approval of a vehicle that would enable the organization to stabilize local funding and increase its forest fire control efforts. Commission firefighters now hope to reach their goal of keeping the average fire size to less than 10 acres, a heretofore unreachable goal.

Counties Get Funds

One of the basic advantages of the assessment is that, by law, the funds must be used by the AFC within the county from which they're collected. These funds cannot be utilized by any other agency, or used for any purposes except fire control and forestry assistance.

The assessment will be levied, collected and reported in the same man-

ner as ad valorem taxes. Remittance will then be made to the Forestry Commission for the respective counties.

A New Look Legislature

The primaries of June 5th and 26th left many Alabamians stunned by the loss of several key members of the House and Senate. Most notable among the casualties was long-time lawmaker and forestry advocate **Rick Manley** of Demopolis.

Senator Manley was edged by former Senator **W.H. Pat Lindsey** of Butler in a cliff-hanger. Manley had only recently been appointed by Lt. Governor **Jim Folsom** to the Alabama Legislative Forestry Study Committee when **Perry Hand** became Secretary of State. Another familiar face will be missing when the new look legislature meets for its organizational session in January. Venerable Senator **Earl Goodwin** of Selma led former Rep. **Walter Owens** of Centerville in the June 5th primary, then bowed to the former Ways And Means Committee Chairman in a hotly contested finish on June 26th.

Little Is Back

The forestry community is anticipating a return to the Senate by **Ted Little** of Auburn. Little left his East Alabama seat to run for State Treasurer four years ago, and has since been assisting your writer in a legislative liaison role for the AFC, in addition to his law practice.

Another former member of the upper chamber returns as **Walking Wendell Mitchell** (1975-79 and 1983) of Luverne squeezed past Troy Mayor **Jimmy Lunsford** for the District 30 seat vacated by Senator **Foy Covington** of Newville.

November 6th Is D-Day

A number of primary upsets were recorded in the House of Representatives. The November 6th general election will possibly bring other surprises as the final make-up of the legislature will be determined at that time.

We will introduce your 1991-95 legislature in the winter issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*. 'Til then—☛

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

by GARY H. MOODY,
Chief, Wildlife Section,
Game and Fish Division

Editor's note: The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee is comprised of 13 agencies having forestry responsibility at the state level. This is the third in a series of informative articles highlighting those agencies.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is a state agency with a variety of responsibilities. Most individuals probably recognize the department through their contact with a conservation enforcement officer, or game warden as they were referred to for many years. This aspect is important, but the department has many more functions than just enforcement of hunting and fishing laws.

The department is headed by a commissioner and assistant commissioner, both of whom are appointed by the governor. Currently, these positions are held by James D. Martin and N.M. "Corky" Pugh, respectively. These individuals wear several hats as they oversee the functions of the various divisions in the department. These divisions include Lands, Marine Police, Marine Resources, Parks, and Game and Fish. The division heads and administrative duties of all but the Marine Resources Division are housed in Montgomery. Marine Resources is headquartered on Dauphin Island, a central location to the division's area of responsibility. The majority of the department personnel are field personnel headquartered in all parts of the state. An overview of the specific duties of each division is presented below.

Lands

The Lands Division has the primary responsibilities of maintaining records

on all lands owned by the State of Alabama and managing certain state owned lands. The lands under the responsibility of this division are managed to maximize benefits to the citizens of the state. This management objective is subject to multiple use and sustained use concepts. The lands under the jurisdiction of the division include Sixteenth Section and Indemnity School Lands, Swamp and Overflowed Lands managed for the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Department, submerged lands, and Muscle Shoals Grant Lands. In addition, the division has management agreements with the University of Montevallo, the Department of Education, and the Department of Youth Services.

Activities that generate income from lands include oil and gas production, forest products, harvesting coal, sand and gravel production, farming, hunting, commercial operations, and other miscellaneous ventures. Tracts with unique character are identified and managed as natural areas to protect their natural unique quality.

The division also coordinates a cooperative program between the department and The Nature Conservancy—The Alabama Heritage Program. One objective of this effort is to identify and list populations of significant animal and plant species and areas of biological significance in the state.

Marine Police

The members of this division are the traffic police on the water. They routinely patrol the large reservoirs and rivers to ensure boating safety laws and regulations are followed. In addition to enforcing laws, the division routinely marks waterways with hazard and control markers. Over 2,000 of these markers are in place. The division has developed a statewide education program to instruct individuals in boating safety and the rules of the water. Additionally, all boat registrations in the state, approximately 215,000, are handled by this division.

Marine Resources

This division is responsible for managing the saltwater wildlife resources of Alabama. Enforcement officers in this division patrol Alabama coastal waters enforcing state and federal conservation and boating safety laws and regulations. When necessary, they also conduct search and rescue missions.

Marine biologists conduct research and surveys on marine species which

include fishes, oysters, and shrimp. They manage the offshore fishing reef program and construct boat ramps for access to coastal waters. They also comment on sensitive environmental issues related to coastal Alabama.

Parks

This year, the Parks Division began its 51st year. During this time, the division has established a statewide network of 24 parks, which enjoy a nationwide reputation. They offer a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities ranging from structured entertainment, such as golf or tennis, to informal activities, such as camping, picnicking, fishing and hiking.

Users of the parks include day visitors and overnight guests. Those staying overnight may choose to stay in one of the modern lodges, a cabin or one of the many campgrounds. If you enjoy outdoor recreation, chances are you will enjoy your state parks. A map depicting the location of the parks may be obtained by contacting the Parks headquarters at 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130.

Game and Fish

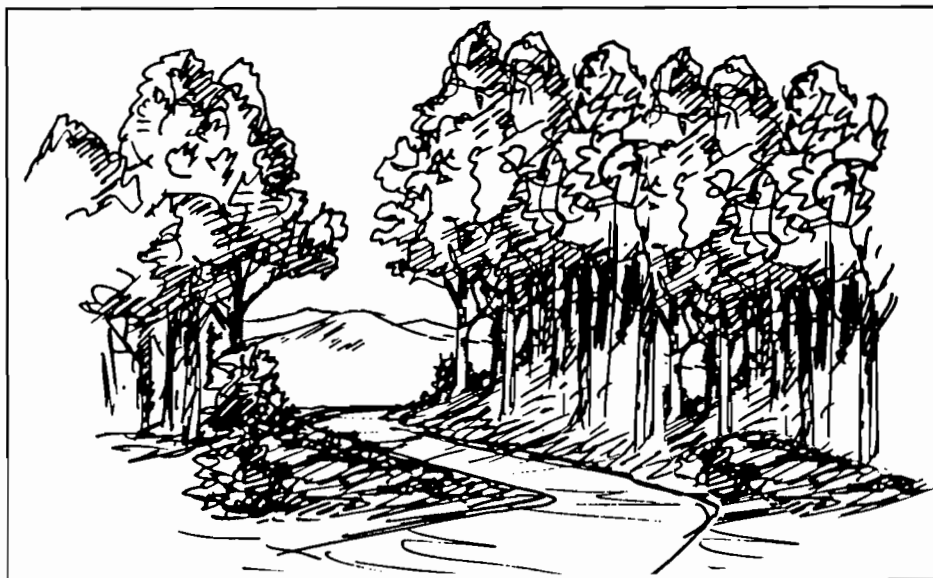
This is the division that perhaps most individuals are familiar with. It is charged with protecting and managing the wildlife and freshwater fisheries resources of Alabama. To accomplish this mission, the division has a well-balanced, coordinated program of management, research and law enforcement. All funding for operation of the Game and Fish Division comes from license fees, donations and federal excise tax paid on certain sporting equipment used in hunting and fishing.

Unlike most state agencies, the division does not receive any general fund or state tax revenue.

This division operates 23 public fishing lakes and 31 wildlife management areas for the hunters and fishermen. These areas are also enjoyed by individuals who participate in other outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking and bird watching. The division provides technical assistance on fish and wildlife management. The division routinely comments on critical environmental issues. Two education programs are managed by the division. Hunter Education teaches hunter responsibility and ethics. Project WILD is a statewide program designed to assist school teachers at all levels teach conservation concepts to students. Another program, Aquatic Education, is currently being developed by the division.

Landowner Assistance

Now that you understand the various divisions of the department, you may ask how that relates to the TREASURE Forest Program. Land nominated for TREASURE Forests that have wildlife as an objective are often inspected by wildlife biologists from the Game and Fish Division. These biologists are instrumental in helping landowners as they develop an overall land management plan. Some landowners are surprised to find that minor changes in their land management plan can produce major gains for wildlife. Landowners with wildlife management questions can contact the division and make an appointment for a wildlife biologist to meet with them. ♣



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT

1

Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Madison, and Marshall Counties

AFC District 1 field personnel, along with area consultant foresters, received some updated information regarding water quality at a recent workshop. The training was held in DeKalb County with field visits on **Bowaters, Inc.**'s forestland. Bowater's forester, **Wayne Turner, Don Baxter, Ross Bernhard**, and former AFC employee **Ed Eldredge** participated. ADEM's **Steve Foster** was the keynote speaker along with the AFC's **Jim Hyland**.

Basic information about current water quality regulations, definitions, AFC monitoring process and erosion control practices was provided to all participants to ultimately help reduce adverse environmental affects. Many interesting facts were brought out including the statistic that in Alabama only 8% of stream sedimentation comes from forestry operations and 40% comes from agricultural activities.

The **Etowah County Forestry Planning Committee** held a TREASURE Forest field day in September. Members of the committee, including TF landowners **Eloise McClendon** and **Travis Smith**, organized the event. One of the highlights of the field day was a discussion of the creation of a local 17,000-acre wildlife sanctuary in the Duck Springs Community.

The **Scottsboro Tree Commission** in Jackson County has been aggressively pursuing a beautification project along the main highway through town. U.S. Highway 72 runs from Chattanooga through Scottsboro westward and the commission members feel a tree planting project would be a positive first encounter for out-of-state motorists.

Commission Chair **Arelene Grede** has spearheaded the effort utilizing assistance from AFC's **Neil Letson** and **Jim Gadra**, Design Alabama. With strong city government and community support, visible progress should be forthcoming this fall.

DISTRICT

2

Blount, Cullman, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, Walker, and Winston Counties

A large pat on the back for a job well done goes to members of the **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee**. The SCCFPC was recently selected as the most outstanding committee in the state. Congratulations to District 2 for having a 90-percent favorable vote in the acreage assessment landowners referendum.

The **Blount County Forestry Planning Committee** and the Blount AFC office recently sponsored a Forest Landowner Tour. The tour included **Russell Pinyan's** pallet factory, **Allen Gilliland's** Spring Valley Beach and manufacturing plant, and **Delbert Bynum's** sawmill and CRP pine plantation. Transportation was provided by Bowater Woodlands and lunch was by the Farmer's Federation.

Jefferson County Supervisor **Greg Kelsoe** has taken an active role in reorganizing the **Jefferson County Forestry Planning Committee**. The committee is currently planning forestry activities for the upcoming months.

Over 120 people attended the second annual Forestry Field Day held at **John M. Harbert's Canoe Creek Farm** and **TREASURE Forest** in St. Clair County. The event was sponsored by the **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee**.

Congratulations to **Helicon Volunteer Fire Department** in Winston County - the county's latest certified volunteer fire department. The **Cullman County Forestry Planning Committee** recently sponsored a herbicide meeting at **Shaw's Catfish Restaurant** in Holly Pond. Approximately 60 cooperators and agency personnel attended.

U.S. Forest Service representatives **Bruce Baldwin** and **John Van**, along with **Jim Hyland, Sharon Clark**, and **David Hoge** of the AFC Montgomery office were the recent guests of the **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee**. The visit was part of an information gathering tour by the USFS.

Congratulations are extended to District 2's new TREASURE Forest landowners. They are **William E. Rodgers** of Hurricane Creek Park in Cullman, **David Abramson** of Arkadelphia, **Camp Sumatanga** in St. Clair County, **Quail Lake Farm** in St. Clair County and **Ruth Martin** of St. Clair County.

Associates from Jefferson County recently participated in the Earth Team Cahaba River Float. Approximately 400 people participated in the event.

Winston County Forestry Worker **Johnna Godsey** and Walker County Ranger **Bobby Matthews** participated in the western fire detail on the White River Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Gary Hamilton, Tim Davis, and **Rod Goode** of the **St. Clair County Forestry Planning Committee** recently attended an organization meeting with the **Tallapoosa County Forestry and Wildlife Planning Committee**. St. Clair representatives offered helpful suggestions in organizing a successful planning committee.

Blount County associates **Steve Bowden** and **Gladys Daily** recently hosted the Blount County Firefighters Competition. Volunteer fire departments winning cash and prizes were **West Blount**—first, **Snead**—second, and **Blount County Fire Association**—third.

District Information Specialist **Coleen Vansant** was recently selected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the **Cullman County Farm-City Committee**. Cullman's annual celebration is a multi-time state and national winner.

DISTRICT

3

Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties

Fayette County landowners **T.C. Smith** and **John Cross** were recently awarded TREASURE Forest certification at the **County Rural Development Committee** meeting at the Fayette Civic Center. In presenting the award, Forest Ranger **Jerry Fulmer** praised the men for their dedication to good forest management.

J.C.(Cecil) Shirley of Pickens County received his TREASURE Forest Award at an April forestry field day held on the Shirley property in Gordo. Mr. Shirley owns 918 acres of land in Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties, and his property is being managed for timber production and wildlife recreation. In accepting his award, Mr. Shirley said

forests are one of the most essential and most renewable resources God has given mankind. "It's our responsibility to see that forests are handed down to the generations to come," he said.

Dr. Bill Sudduth hosted a forestry field day at his TREASURE Forest in Hale County. The event focused on managing land for timber and wildlife. Demonstration sites and tour spots featured thinning, natural regeneration and pine plantations.

Lamar County Supervisor **Alton Terrell** and Forest Rangers **Harold Jordan** and **Bailey Woods** are to be commended for their leadership role in the Adopt-A-Mile project of **Lamar County PALS**. Lamar County businesses and individual families set a record when they adopted over 89 miles of state highway in only 35 days. Lamar County now has more adopted miles than any other Alabama county.

The Pickens County AFC Office assisted with a forestry field day in Aliceville which attracted over 120 FFA members.

The Greene County AFC Office participated in several training sessions for interested landowners at the Tishabee and Eutaw Activity Centers. The presentations focused on proper tree planting and the care of hardwoods.

Seneca Earth Covers, a new wood industry in the Beville-Hook Port near Aliceville, loaded and transported its first barge of bark this July. When the company is fully operational, a barge containing around 10,000 tons of pine or hardwood bark should be leaving the port every other week.

Tuscaloosa County Rangers **Harry Kepler** and **Chuck McDaniel** taught tree identification and surveying at the 1990 4-H Forestry Camp. They also assisted with contests held throughout the week.

The Hale County AFC office welcomes Forest Ranger II **James Jennings**. James has a forestry degree from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville.

DISTRICT

5

Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Dallas, Marengo, Perry, and Wilcox Counties

Perry county landowner **Roy Cummings** received his TREASURE Forest certificate in a ceremony held on his property, which borders the Cahaba River, on June 20. District Forester **Larry Brooks** and County Forester **David Pearce** were present, along with **Bill Grimes**, area forester with **MacMillan Bloedel**. Mr. Grimes assists Mr. Cummings with his forest management.

Several TREASURE Forest ceremonies were held recently in Bibb county. Landowners **Farely Moody, Welford Kornegay, M.C. Murphy, Joe Barton** and the **Snipes Family** all received their certificates. **James Bonner** received his TREASURE Forest Certificate at a ceremony in Camden on June 30. District Forester **Larry Brooks** made the presentation, along with Wilcox County Forester **Paul Wingard**. Congratulations to all of our new TREASURE Forest landowners!

Wilcox County AFC personnel assisted with programs on forestry and wildlife as part of Auburn Extension Service 4-H camps over the summer in the communities of Camden, Snow Hill and Boykin.

At a District Ranger Training day in Linden on June 1st, several awards were presented to local

residents. **Daisy Robison** received a plaque from State Forester Bill Moody recognizing her outstanding service to landowners in Marengo county. Mrs. Robison is with the Marengo County ASCS office. **Jack Sumrall** accepted a certificate of outstanding leadership in urban forestry on behalf of his wife, **Patsy**, who is Mayor of Thomaston. **Neil Letson**, state urban forestry coordinator, presented this award in appreciation of establishing a walking trail with trees identified along the trail. Mrs. Sumrall is also active in Tree City USA. Neil also presented **Ruth Raines** of Myrtlewood with a certificate of outstanding leadership in urban forestry for her work in Tree City USA and beautification projects in Myrtlewood.

Attending the 6th Annual Urban Forestry Convention in Huntsville was Selma urban forestry booster and city councilwoman, **Rita Sims**. Selma had the largest contingency of any town at the convention. Management Specialist **Tom Lang** presented Rita with a certificate of outstanding leadership in urban forestry in recognition of her efforts in coordinating Selma's removal of hazardous trees, and helping with replanting suitable tree species.

DISTRICT 6
Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike Counties
 Barbour County has added two new TREASURE Forests to its growing family of landowners. They are the **Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch** and **Frank Grant**. The Sheriff's Ranch has recreation as its primary objective and wildlife as its secondary objective. Mr. Grant has timber as his primary and wildlife as his secondary objective.

Coffee County held its annual Ned Folmar Appreciation luncheon in New Brockton recently with about 180 people attending. The following individuals or companies received their TREASURE Forest certificates and signs at the meeting: **Flournoy Whittman Estate, Cliff Ohlenburger** and **National Security Life Insurance Company**. Also, **Bud and Dorothy Davis'** TREASURE Forest was re-certified and they received their 5-year pin.

Coffee County Supervisor **Wayne Roberts** was the recipient of the annual Ned Folmar Award. The award is given each year to an individual that has made significant contributions and impact in forestry in the county.

Dale County has **Lawrence Strickland** and **Dorsey Tadlock** as new Creed signers.

Bruce Hancock and **Larry Doster** worked with the **Dale County FFA** forestry judging contest this year. The town of Arton was the winner and went on to place in the district competition.

Larry Doster and **Donnie Ray Jones** have been working closely with **Charles Lewis** on maintaining firelanes and other forestry practices. Mr. Lewis will soon be up for recertification.

The **Geneva County Forestry Association** had **Jim Cottingham** as its guest speaker at the last meeting. Jim works with Stone Container Corporation and is also the District Chairman for the Tree Farm Program. Jim spoke on Tree Farm and how it ties in with the programs of other agencies. Seventy two people attended and dinner was served after the meeting.

Ronnie Hickman and several county landowners have been visiting areas that have been site-prepared using aerial applied chemicals rather than mechanical means. They are of the opinion that the mixture of Arsenal and Accord works the best.

New Creed signers for Geneva County are **Max Baxley** and **Roy Ussery**.

Henry County's newest TREASURE Forest landowner is **Jack O. Murphy**. Mr. Murphy's primary objective is aesthetics and his secondary is timber. Mr. Murphy is the father of **Chris Murphy**, AFC forester in Henry County.

Hugh Ward Wheelless, Jr. is the newest TREASURE Forest landowner in Houston County. Timber and recreation are Mr. Wheelless's primary and secondary objectives.

DISTRICT 7
Butler, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, and Monroe Counties

A Wildlife Camp, sponsored by the **Evergreen Rotary Club**, was held June 20-21 on the TREASURE Forest owned by **Stuart McGee**. Forty children participated in canoeing, camping, archery and lessons in wildlife and TREASURE Forest. Conecuh County AFC rangers helped with the event.

June 29 was proclaimed as **Ernest Johnson Day** in Monroe County. After serving the citizens of Monroe County as AFC ranger for 27 years, Ernest retired. Ernest was honored with a retirement lunch. Over 140 people attended the barbecue. Thanks to the Monroe County Fire Association, forestry industries, cooperating agencies and the many landowners and citizens that gave time, money and effort into making this day a success.

On July 4 the annual chainsaw competition was held in Luverne. County Supervisor **Tim Money** helped with the day's events.

Congratulations to the **Butler County Junior 4-H Forestry Judging Team**. They were awarded third place in the state judging. County Supervisor **Paul Hudgins** coached the team.

Morris Stone recently signed the TREASURE Forest creed. He is working with AFC personnel in Escambia County.

AFC personnel from Conecuh and Monroe counties had a joint clean-up on a dump near the county line. The town of Repton provided a backhoe for the project.

Escambia County Rangers **Richard Royce** and **George Bolling** presented a program to Brewton's YMCA Day Camp. The **Brewton Fire Department** also participated in the program.

DISTRICT 8
Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Mobile, and Washington Counties

Forest Rangers from across the district were called on in June to assist with wildfire suppression in Arizona.

Those assisting were Mobile County Forest Rangers **Bobby McAdams, Jim Wade, Major Harris** and **Steve Carr**; **Tim Kelly** and **Randy Kinman** of Clarke County; **Lemoral Coleman** from Choctaw County.

Mobile County Forester **Steve Lyda** has added three new creed signers to the TREASURE Forest program. **Woodie March, Ernest** and **Emmett Gaston**, and **John Davis** are the newest members of the program.

Clarke County landowners **Gene** and **Nina Widder** have been certified as TREASURE Forest landowners.

Fire prevention and tree identification have been topics of discussion recently, as Mobile, Washington, Clarke and Choctaw Counties participated in activities with scout troops and day care programs.

The AFC participated in Gayfers' Earth Day Celebration. **Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl** and Forest Rangers **Ronnie Grider, Aaron Hunt, Major Harris**, and **Steve Carr** were on hand with an exhibit and fire prevention materials.

Washington County Forest Ranger **Charlie Carpenter** hosted forestry field days at Jordan Tower and in Chatom for local 4-H members during the summer.

In Washington County, Fairford and Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Departments are organized and progressing toward certification.

The PALS Chapter in Washington County is continuing to make progress with their anti-litter work. Cleanup days were held in Chatom this spring and several tickets have been issued to high-way litterers.

Mobile County Forest Ranger **Jim Wade** recently graduated from the Southwest Alabama Police Academy. He will serve as an AFC law enforcement officer in Mobile County.

Baldwin County Forest Rangers are prepared over the summer for fire season by doing extensive updating, repairing and maintaining of fire suppression equipment. They were also busy with the construction of their new office.

Baldwin County AFC Law Enforcement Officer **Lynn Booth** has identified potential hot spots around the county and is preparing a law enforcement/fire prevention plan to combat wildfire problems in these areas for the coming fire season.

Brian Hendricks, AFC forester in Choctaw County, and Forest Ranger **Raymond Skelton** have participated with Keep Choctaw County Beautiful's anti-litter initiative by cleaning up approximately 50 illegal dumps.

The AFC in Clarke County is in the process of improving communications around the county. The UHF radio system is being upgraded, repeaters are being relocated and UHF radios are scheduled to be installed in AFC transports. All of this will provide better communication between VFD's and the AFC.

The **Clarke County Forestry Planning Committee's** landowner's tour is scheduled for October 18.

Clarke County Forester **Benji Elmore** reports that Fulton Sawmill Days will be held October 6, and the annual Forestry Festival is scheduled for November 3 in Jackson. For details of these events, contact the AFC in Grove Hill.

The **Choctaw County Forestry Planning Committee** has planned their annual forestry tour for October 23. James River will sponsor the lunch and various vendors will supply door prizes. For more information, contact the AFC office in Butler.

District 8 invites everyone to attend the **Seventh Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference** scheduled for October 11-12 in Mobile. The indoor session will be held at the Mobile Civic Center with a field day in Baldwin County at Dozier and Ozier Slay's property on Friday. "The Environment" is the theme of this year's conference and the Slays have an excellent example of a TREASURE Forest to support this theme.

DISTRICT 9
Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Marion, and Morgan Counties

Colbert County AFC associates organized an appreciation dinner for their volunteer firemen. **Charles Malone** was selected Fireman of the Year. Special guests were county commissioners, Senator **Bobby Denton** and

Representative **Tom Coburn**. The dinner was sponsored by **Champion International, Alfa, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation**. District Forester **Gerald Steeley** was recognized by the **Florence Police Department** for his service toward making a safer and more wholesome community. He volunteered his services to teach a defensive tactics course to the Florence Police Department.

Cherokee School in Colbert County has received national recognition for their involvement with PALS and the Adopt-a-Mile Program. They have received an award from the R.J. Nabisco Company. The Building Our American Communities Award was presented in Montgomery in June. The teacher and a student were awarded expense paid trips to Washington, D.C.

Among the outstanding Earth Day programs was a festival held at the Joe Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in Decatur. AFC associates prepared a special display and gave away pine seedlings.

Clean up projects were held throughout the district. PALS sponsored a cleanup project in Colbert and Lauderdale counties. Lawrence county Litter-busters were assisted by **Larry Lee** and **Tony Montgomery**.

The **Lauderdale County Forestry Planning Committee** recently recognized two landowners of TREASURE Forests. Awards were presented to the estate of the late **Emily George** and **H.W. Killen**.

Lawrence County AFC has a new office in the Lawrence County Agriculture Services building on Hwy. 157 in Moulton. They recently held open house.

Marion County landowners hosted a landowner meeting. **David Frederick**, director of the protection division was guest speaker. A dinner was sponsored by the Marion County Chapter of the **Alabama Farmers Federation**.

Northwest Alabama has a new RC&D Organization. **Larry Jackson** of Franklin County was selected to serve as chairman. This new chapter set goals to include water quality, soil and water conservation, rural development of forest markets and regeneration. **Howard Swanner, Larry Lee** and **Roger Nichols** participated in the 4-H Wildlife Camp held in Guntersville.

District 9's wildflower garden has been selected first place winner in state competition sponsored by the **Garden Clubs of Alabama**.

Paul Beverly, Tony Montgomery and **Billy Rye** recently attended a fire prevention school.

Don Burdette, Cary Rhodes and **Mike Lanier** were members of the fire fighting crew from Alabama to go to western fires.

Louise Bone, district I&E coordinator was presented with a 30-year service pen.

Marion County AFC personnel hosted a cookout and tour for students from the **Itawamba Jr. College**, Fulton, MS.

by Speaker of the House **Jimmy Clark** and co-sponsored by Senator **Danny Corbett** from Ladonia. Attending from the Forestry Commission were State Forester **C.W. Moody**, District Forester **David Duckett** and Russell County Supervisor **Melvin Phelps**.

Forestry Worker **Charles Baldwin** and County Supervisor **Jerry McGhee** assisted with the Kid's Fishing Derby held at the Tuskegee National forest on June 9.

Elmore County Ranger **Jimmy Foreman** plowed firelanes at **Girl Scout Camp Kiwanis** and presented a fire safety program to the girl scouts in attendance on June 12.

Montgomery County Forest Rangers **Johnny Mims** and **Tommy Wilson** assisted with the **Annual Montgomery County 4-H Field Day** activities, which included four wheeler safety, shotgun training, fishing techniques and tree identification. About 100 young men and women attended the event held at White's Lake in Montgomery County. The Forestry Planning Committees in Bullock and Elmore Counties both received stewardship grants to promote forestry through education. Elmore County received \$1,500 to purchase video equipment for a portable TREASURE Forest display center that can be set up in malls and other public places. Bullock County received \$800 to be used toward TREASURE Forest certification through educational promotion of TREASURE Forest ownership.

Several rangers from District 10 assisted in forestry instruction at **Tukabatchee Boy Scout Camp** during June and July.

Montgomery County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments had a barbecue dinner in Snowdown on July 28 for firefighters and their families. Approximately 75 were in attendance.

Bill Davis, Lowndes County supervisor, accompanied the State 4-H forestry winners from Lowndes County to the national competition in Weston, West Virginia. The team came in 7th place nationally. We are proud of the team and of Bill for providing such good instruction and leadership.

A dedication ceremony was held in Opelika on August 3 for **Randy Quick** who died last year. Randy was a young forester in Lee County and was instrumental in establishing Opelika as a Tree City. A reception was held in the Auburn Library building with speeches from those who worked with

Randy in various capacities, as well as from the mayor. The group then adjourned to the area outside the library where a plaque to honor Randy was unveiled by the mayor and the corner dedicated as the Randy Quick Memorial Corner. Forestry Commission personnel attending were **Neil Letson, Robert Wiggins, Tonee Thomas, Bruce Johnson** and **J.B. Coker**. ♣

CALENDAR

October—Monroe County, AL. The Monroe County Forestry Capitol of Alabama month-long celebration. Many forestry-related activities, including a landowner tour Oct. 10, and the Timberland Jamboree and Forestry Equipment Show Oct. 27. For more information or a schedule of events, call 1-800-562-AFRC.

October 6—Fulton, AL. Second Annual Sawmill Days celebration. One-day festival includes arts and crafts, entertainment and displays.

October 11-12—Mobile, AL. Seventh Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference, Mobile Civic Center. Registration 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Oct. 11. Indoor and outdoor sessions.

November 3—Jackson, AL. Eighth Annual South Alabama Forestry and Wildlife Festival. Arts and crafts, games for children, cross-cut saw competition, pole climbing, wildlife exhibits, gun and knife show and sale, antique car show, and much more. For information, call 246-3251.

November 5-8—Mississippi St. University. Prescribed Burning short course. Contact Dr. Andy Ezell, (601) 325-3150.

December 6-7—Athens, GA. Timber Tax Income, a Univ. of Ga. short course. Contact the Ga. Center for Continuing Education, (404) 542-1585.

January 14-16—Athens, GA. Law for Field Foresters, a Univ. of Ga. short course. Contact the Ga. Center for Continuing Education, (404) 542-1585.

March 11-12—Athens, GA. Basic Communications Skills for Foresters, a Univ. of Ga. short course. Contact the Ga. Center for Continuing Education, (404) 542-1585. ♣

MONROE COUNTY

is the
1990 Forestry Capital of Alabama

October has been designated as the month of celebration.

Activities include the following:

- Archery Classic
- Forest Landowner Tour
- Professional Loggers Demonstration
- Alabama River Newsprint's Grand Opening

- Volunteer Firefighters Competition
- Timberland Jamboree and Forestry Equipment Show
- Alabama Forest Resources Center Annual Meeting

For details on these and other events held during the month, call 1-800-562-AFRC.

DISTRICT

10

Bullock, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, and Russell Counties

On May 15 the **Macon County Forestry Planning Committee** had its annual Forestry and Wildlife meeting at White Oak Plantation. **Joe Brown**, forest supervisor of National Forests in Alabama, was the guest speaker. A video of the program was prepared by the AFC Video Section.

An appreciation dinner was held for the Rural Volunteer Fire Departments in Russell County on May 25 in Phenix City. The dinner was sponsored

SELECTING THE RIGHT VENDOR

by RICHARD CUMBIE, Productivity Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission

Your TREASURE Forest needs some work done on it. How do you go about getting it done? Whether you need a consulting forester or a contractor to do fireline construction, site preparation, tree planting, timber stand improvement (TSI), or any of the other many activities associated with forest management, the process is much the same. First, you must remember that you are about to make an investment that will have long-lasting impacts. You need to be sure that the job is done correctly from the beginning.

Selecting a good vendor is no great, mysterious ordeal. Following the same simple rules that you would normally use when making a large purchase or investment will bring good results.

The first thing you should do is obtain a listing of available vendors. Local offices of the Alabama Forestry Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, and Extension Service have various lists of vendors. From this list, pick several vendors that offer the service you need and make contact with them. Find out if they are available to do the work for you when you need it done, the price they charge, and references (names of local people the vendor has done work for). Contact these references and see if they were pleased with the vendor's work.

After picking several vendors that look right for you, compare prices. Make sure you compare prices for the same work. For example, some vendors might quote a price for prescribed burning to include fireline construction while others might quote separate prices for the burning and fireline construction.

After you have compared costs and quality of services and selected the vendor, you and the vendor

should negotiate a contract. This is one of the most important steps of selecting a vendor and often times is the most overlooked. The landowner and vendor may not communicate properly on what has been decided to be done and a well developed contract will prevent this from happening. Contracts should spell out exactly what is expected of the vendor, how he is to do it, and date

of completion. Sample contracts are available from the Alabama Forestry Commission.

In summary, shop around when looking for a vendor. You are about to make a considerable investment and you need to get the best quality service at the best price. There are reliable vendors available. It's your job to find the one that is right for you. ♣

Memorial

Clarke County TREASURE Forest landowner **Edd Kennedy, Jr.** died June 2 at the age of 71. Mr. Kennedy, a life-long resident of Chance, Alabama, was a retired state probation and parole supervisor. He served on the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors for 25 years and was director of the Clarke County Farmers Federation. An avid outdoorsman, he managed his TREASURE Forest for timber and wildlife.



Jane Lowery Beeland, TREASURE Forest landowner, died June 3 after an illness of several months. Mrs. Beeland was born in Greenville and was a teacher and social worker during her lifetime. She was married to Robert A. Beeland in 1956 and the couple lived in Missouri, Virginia and Georgia before returning to Alabama in 1985. Their 797-acre TREASURE Forest in Butler County was certified in 1989. Throughout her adult life, Mrs. Beeland was a devoted churchwoman and participant in civic, charitable and educational activities.

HARDWOOD REGENERATION METHODS

by TOM CAMBRE, Hardwood Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

Several options are available to the landowner or manager when regenerating hardwoods. The regeneration method usually depends upon the management system used: uneven-aged or even-aged. Quite a few landowners across the South use the uneven-aged system of hardwood regeneration. If the uneven-aged system is used, then the regeneration method could be the diameter limit method, the single tree selection system, or group selection. If the even-aged management system is used, then the manager could select from artificial regeneration or planting, silvicultural clearcut, or the shelterwood method.

Uneven Aged System

Diameter-limit Method—This method is, in almost all cases in the South, the least desirable. Unfortunately, it is the method most often used in the South. The landowner will decide to make another cut, either because of a need for the money or past habits of selling something every 10 to 15 years.

Trees are selected for cutting by the diameter-limit method, i.e., cut everything above a 14-inch stump, or the buyer or logging contractor is allowed to select the trees. When this method of cutting is used, the resulting regeneration is usually composed of slower growing, shade-tolerant species. In addition, the smaller stems (under 14-inch stumps) are looked upon by the landowner as desirable for the new stand. This is not the case, however, even though they may be desirable species. Hardwoods naturally occur in

even-aged groups where openings in the forest canopy are large enough to permit establishment.

Trees left after a diameter-limit cut are often the same age as the larger, neighboring stems that were cut. Therefore, these smaller stems have been suppressed and will not respond to release satisfactorily unless they are a shade-tolerant species. In addition, having been suppressed by the previous crop trees, they tend to be more susceptible to insect and disease attack and thereby produce a lower grade of timber. Each successive cut will consist of a lower grade product and lower per acre volume. In many cases, the only reason markets are available for this material is because of improved utilization techniques.

Single-tree Selection System—This system is often recommended for landowners who have small tracts because it is believed the income from these smaller tracts should be spread out over a longer period. There could be some merit in this belief; however, removal of single trees has not been proven an effective way to regenerate the hardwoods of the South. Openings created in the forest canopy by the removal of single trees are not large enough to allow efficient use of the site. The system fails to provide for quick, orderly removal of overhead competition and allows development of shade-tolerant species—many of which are not desirable.

Group Selection—This method is often recommended when impacts on

wildlife and other resources should be increased. The size of the area can vary, but generally should be smaller than one acre. The average opening created when using the group selection method is probably between .2 and .8 acres. The major disadvantage of the group selection method is that many small stands are created that are difficult to map and administer.

Even Aged Regeneration System

Artificial Regeneration—This is one method in which the landowner or manager must be totally committed. Too many hardwood stands in the South reflect half-hearted attempts at plantation establishment. In many cases, these stands did not result from the planted seedlings, but from uncontrolled natural regeneration that took the site. This is especially true of the thousands of acres of yellow-poplar that have been planted across the South in the past.

The first step in plantation establishment should be to determine site suitability for the species to be planted. Today, hardwood plantation establishment costs can average \$300 per acre. A reasonable amount of time and money invested in matching sites with the species to be planted can avoid costly failures.

The second step is site preparation. All salable sawlogs, pulpwood, and other products such as energy wood (if market exists), must be removed. It is necessary to time the completion of the harvest so that site preparation can be finished during the summer and fall

prior to planting. Many hardwood sites in the large flood plains of the South are too wet to prepare during the winter. All standing trees and stumps should be sheared at, or slightly below, the ground line. In addition, the site must be root raked, the debris piled and burned, and disked with a heavy bush and bog site preparation disk. If this work is completed early during the summer, it is important to disk again to prevent development of a grass sod on the site.

Where old crop fields or pastures are to be planted, sub-soiling is generally necessary to break up the established pan. Pastures should be deeply plowed to break up the sod. In general, the higher the degree of site preparation, the less expensive the planting and cultivation cost will be.

Planting can begin as soon as the seedlings are fully dormant and can be lifted. The seedlings, after lifting from the nursery, should be graded and only those 24 inches and taller with a minimum root collar diameter of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch should be planted. Prior to planting it is very important to keep the seedlings in a cool, moist environment and to protect them from freezing. Seedlings should be planted to the original root collar depth. Cottonwood cuttings should be 20 inches long and planted, big end down, with two inches left above the soil surface.

Spacing recommendations vary with the species involved and products to be grown. In any case, sufficient space must be provided to allow cross cultivation. Most hardwood plantations are 10 x 10 feet or 12 x 12 feet with combinations of the two. Cultivation requirements will vary from two to five times per year for a minimum of two years. Cottonwood, sycamore, green ash, yellow poplar, and willow, for example, begin height growth almost immediately after planting. Oaks usually begin height growth in the second and sometimes the third year after planting. Oaks do not need cultivation but the

trees may not appear above the weeds for three to five years.

Young hardwood plantations must be protected from livestock grazing and overstocked deer herds. Fencing will exclude cattle, but deer can be a problem. One solution is the brush fence. If the site was forested prior to planting, a brush fence can be constructed by bulldozing the last 50 yards of logging debris into a giant windrow around the perimeter of the plantation. The windrow should be approximately 10 to 12 feet high and 20 feet wide at the base. The entrances to the field, for equipment, must be fenced.

Another method of artificial regeneration that should be used more widely is direct seeding of the oaks. The Southern Hardwood Laboratory at Stoneville, MS has worked with direct seeding of cherrybark, Shumard, and Nuttall oaks for several years. Problems with acorn depredation by rodents can be severe when acorns are sown in openings as small as 40 x 90 feet. Few problems were encountered with rodents, except near the edges, when openings as large as three acres were sown.



Acorns sown as deep as six inches can germinate and produce seedlings, but best seedling establishment resulted from two and three inch sowing depths. This method will not result in a pure stand of oak but will increase the oak component of the future stand. How much the oak component is increased will depend on how much the landowner or manager is willing to spend on competition control.

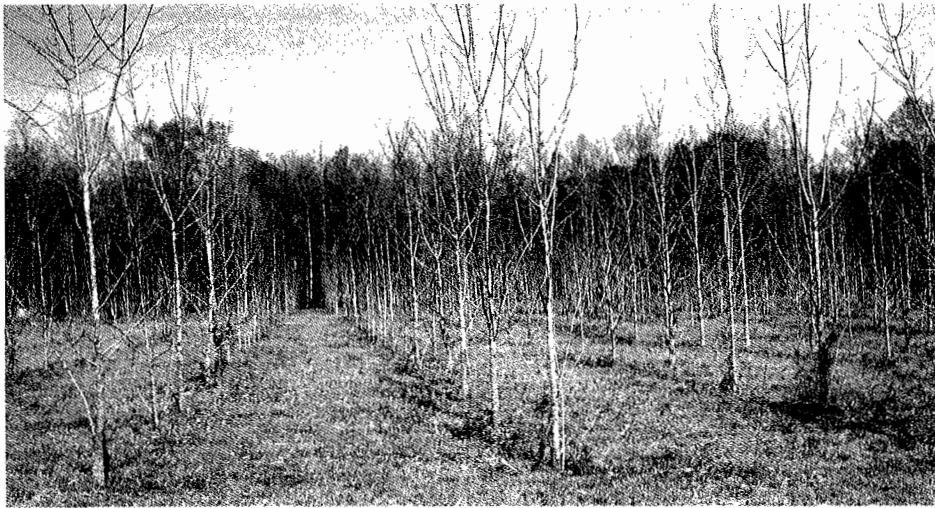
Natural Regeneration—Natural regeneration of southern hardwood is relatively easy and inexpensive when compared to artificial means. Difficulty and expense become important factors when efforts are made to control the species and timing of regeneration.

Three major sources of regeneration can be used, depending upon the objectives in management and site capability. Natural hardwood regeneration results from seed, advanced regeneration, or from stump and root sprouts.

The Silvicultural Clearcut—This is a very efficient method of regenerating hardwood stands. There is a very important difference between a commercial clearcut and a silvicultural one. A silvicultural clearcut could be described as a commercial clearcut followed by site preparation. First, all salable material should be felled or injected; caution should be taken when using chemicals and root grafting and transfer of chemicals. No desirable species should ever be injected. If a bulldozer with shearing blade is used, every effort should be made to keep the blade near the soil surface with as little

soil disturbance as possible. All stems two inches and larger should be felled. There is no need to windrow and burn debris. Stump height must be kept low (six to eight inches from soil surface or lower) to improve the quality of sprouts. Silvicultural clearcuts produce even-aged stands that favor intolerant, fast-growing species.

Quality of the site seems to be a very important factor in species composition of the new stand. On good sites in the southern uplands, seedlings of fast-growing species such as yellow-poplar, ash, black locust, black cherry, and birch, along with sprouts from the oaks, red maple, and others usually predominate. On the southern lowlands, seedlings and sprouts from sweetgum, ash, sycamore, the oaks,



Artificial regeneration is one method to which the landowner or manager must be totally committed.

willow, cottonwood, and others predominate. The poorest sites in the uplands are much more easily regenerated to the oaks, but on the better sites oaks are more difficult to establish. Some interplanting of oaks can be done to increase this component of the stand.

Silvicultural clearcuts should not be used as a means of regenerating fully stocked and over-mature stands of hardwoods. This practice in this instance may result in a total failure as a means of obtaining desirable natural regeneration. These stands should be given a shelterwood cut five to 10 years prior to the silvicultural clearcut.

Shelterwood—This method is most often used in the Northeast when the objective is the more shade-tolerant species such as beech and sugar maple. In the South, the shelterwood method has been recommended as one that may work when the objective is to increase the oak component of the future stand. Oaks must be present in the understory as advanced regeneration (one inch diameter at the root collar and 4 1/2 feet tall) prior to the final cut. Natural establishment of oak seedlings varies by years from none to thousands per acre, partly from tree to tree and year to year.

In some parts of the southern Appalachians, bumper crops have been produced every four years by white oak and every five years by Northern red oak. Even during good crop years most acorns are destroyed by animals, birds, and insects. Once oak seedlings become established, they must have direct overhead sunlight for at least two hours per day to maintain height growth in the understory. However, an oak seedling will die back and resprout several times before the root system dies. Small oak seedlings in the understory have been found to have root systems 20 to 30 years old.

Once a satisfactory number of seedlings have been established in the understory, it is necessary to gradually open up the stand canopy to allow enough sunlight into the forest floor to maintain height growth on the oak seedlings, but keep down competition. Probably a three-step shelterwood cut

would be most favorable. The first cut should reduce the overhead stand to 70 to 80 percent stocking, followed two years later with another cut to reduce stocking to 40 to 60 percent, and a final cut five years after the initial cut. All stems two inches and up must be removed during the final cut. If a two-step shelterwood is used, the first cut should reduce stocking to a 40 to 60 percent level followed by the final cut no later than three years.

Like artificially regenerated stands, naturally regenerated stands must be protected from domestic cattle grazing and overpopulated deer herds.

In some upland areas, grapevines may be cut at or near the soil surface a minimum of three years prior to removing the canopy. The root systems will die from the lack of sunlight before the canopy is opened up. Grapevines in the bottoms are not a major problem.

Summary

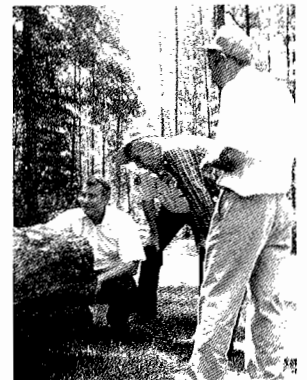
The uneven-aged management system generally employs hardwood regeneration techniques that favor slower growing, shade-tolerant species. The even-aged management system uses regeneration methods that encourage fast-growing intolerant species. The silvicultural clearcut and group selection methods are relatively easy to apply and are reliable. The shelterwood system is usually recommended when the landowner wishes to increase the oak component of the future stand. Hardwood plantations are a reliable method of regenerating hardwoods, but can be the most expensive. ♠

Seventh Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference October 11-12, 1990 — Mobile Civic Center

The theme for this year's conference is "Managing our Environmental TREASURE in the 90s." Registration fee of \$35 can be paid at the door Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fee includes both days' sessions, banquet and luncheon.

A TREASURE Forest landowner tour is also scheduled this year on the property of Ozier and Dozier Slay in Baldwin County.

Shown preparing for the tour are l-r: Ernie Todd, Soil Conservation Service, Stanley Anderson, Alabama Forestry Commission, and TREASURE Forest landowners Ozier and Dozier Slay.



PAULOWNIA: Something Different

by DON BURDETTE, Florence Staff Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

The word going around north Alabama about tremendously valuable paulownia (*Paulownia tomentosa*) logs has sparked an interest in growing commercial stands of this imported tree species. Although the financial opportunity to cash in on export quality logs is very real now, speculation in future commercial stands is fraught with great risks and uncertainty.

Description

Paulownia, also known as Royal Paulownia, Princess Tree, Cottonwood (misnomer), T'ung (Chinese), and Kiri (Japanese), is often seen on roadsides, vacant lots and abandoned mine lands as a low, wide-spreading tree with a mature height of 30 to 60 feet. Wild trees, however, growing in deep, moist soils in competition with native hardwoods are capable of growing 60 to 75 feet tall, one to two feet in diameter and with compact, rounded crowns. Other identifying characteristics include broad, long-stalked leaves similar to Catalpa but much larger; thick, velvety fine, sticky hairs covering tender new stems and leaves; large pyramidal clusters of fragrant, violet-colored flowers; and leathery, olive brown or bronze fruit capsules which split open in late fall releasing thousands of tiny membrane-winged seeds, but which remain on the tree for one or two more years.

Paulownia wood is not much heavier than balsa wood but is very strong for its weight. After air drying, the lumber has high dimensional stability, low shrinkage and minimal defects. Paulownia dries easier than any other commercial wood in the U.S. It cuts smoothly on a veneer slicer, glues well into plywood and takes a stain well. Other excellent qualities include fire, insect and decay resistance. Paulownia has some disadvantages for use in pulp and paper: low specific

gravity, short fiber length and high extractive content.

Range/History

Paulownia tomentosa is one of 17 species of paulownia trees originating from China. Over the last several centuries, paulownia escaped naturally to or was imported into Taiwan, Japan, Korea, France, Argentina, Brazil, India, the United States and other countries. There are two stories about how Paulownia came to America about 150 years ago. Some say it was deliberately brought over and planted as an ornamental. The other story is that the fine, fluffy seeds were brought over from the orient as packing materials in boxes laden with goods. Whatever its mode of introduction, Paulownia has become naturalized throughout our country's central hardwood forest



Open grown paulownia trees appear similar to catalpa or mulberry but with larger leaves and smoother bark.

region, mostly from Southern New York southward to Florida and Texas. Kentucky and Tennessee are considered excellent growing areas. Paulownia occurs infrequently throughout the northern third of Alabama with the highest concentration of available and desirable logs found in northwest Alabama.

Paulownia grew wild and unnoticed in the U.S. for years except for developing a reputation as a weed tree. In the mid-1960s the paulownia supply in the oriental countries was degraded and partially destroyed by an epidemic of witches broom disease. At first, the Japanese filled their wood demands totally from Taiwan and mainland China. In 1972, wild, old-aged American paulownia was discovered and found to have superior qualities of tight growth rings and a slight pinkish color to the wood.

The Japanese are presently the only consumers for paulownia. Fifty-four percent of the paulownia imported into Japan today comes from either Taiwan or mainland China, 11 percent comes from the United States, 11 percent from South America and the remaining 24 percent from other countries.

Paulownia has a lot of cultural significance to the Japanese people; 81.5 percent of it is used to make furniture. Twelve percent is used to make storage boxes for personal valuables, and 6.5 percent is used for clog shoes, musical instruments, construction materials and other products. Today the making of traditional Japanese bridal chests called tansu is the single most important use of this wood.

Highest Value in Export Logs

Royal Paulownia logs are so unique that any log at all that meets the stringent exporting standards can be worth at least \$1,000 per thousand board foot stumpage. A few trees from north



Lauderdale County landowner Norman Ray inspects two- and three-year-old paulownia seedlings.

Alabama that met some of the highest standards have been sold for as much as \$5,000-6,000 per thousand board foot. These prices make paulownia the most valuable timber species anywhere in the U.S. In Japan the processed lumber or veneer assembled into a finished piece of furniture is worth 10 to 20 times our stumpage value.

What the Japanese want from the U.S. is premium close-grained logs for veneer or high quality lumber. The Japanese ship the raw logs to Japan where they are either peeled or sawn into finished construction materials. They do use a large amount of wide-grained paulownia lumber for hidden furniture parts but they can get all the fast growing logs they want out of China or Taiwan without paying the high shipping costs from the United States.

Potential export logs are graded according to three main characteristics: growth ring tightness, overall size and defects.

The density of annual rings is by far the most important and discriminating characteristic. Logs must exhibit a minimum of five rings per inch, with five

to 11 rings per inch being marginal and 12 rings or more per inch being very desirable. The percent of the log diameter in slow growing wood is also a consideration here. The growth rings are almost always unacceptably wide in the center. However, the Japanese frequently cut their veneer and lumber out of the outer sapwood anyway.

The second logical consideration is log size. The minimum scaling diameter (the small end of the log) is considered 10 inches with the larger, more valuable logs running 18 inches or more in diameter. The shortest acceptable log length is usually eight feet or longer in two-inch increments. Occasionally a four- or six-foot log section is accepted if other characteristics are optimum.

The type, size and position of defects is the final grading characteristic. Value is lost for decay, knots, forks, ring shake and even mechanical damage inflicted during logging and transportation. Each log must have at least three out of four faces clear. Although a distinct pith occurs in paulownia logs, wood decay is not usually a serious problem because the

species is able to compartmentalize any decaying process in tightly confined areas of the stem.

Although the size and presence of defects in paulownia logs can sometimes be judged by observations of the outside of standing trees, determination of growth ring density can be more difficult. The use of an increment borer is strictly forbidden because of damage to veneer. Other than cutting the tree down and counting rings on the stump, the only other way to judge density is by examining the condition of the bark of standing trees. Unsalable fast-growing trees have a shallow, whitish bark. Desirable slow-growing trees have charcoal grey or black bark with wide plates and deep fissures.

It is very difficult to find the large, slow-growing paulownia logs without defects which are sought by the Japanese. Here in north Alabama, many have already been cut, some stolen, some are yet to be found in the wild, some are inaccessible and some are still too young for harvest. The best logs are usually found as understory trees within mixed hardwood stands in moist but well-drained coves or creek



The best logs are usually found growing on good hardwood sites as understory trees.

bottoms. Unusable trees that are passed over because of excessive growth rates or defects are either left in the woods or disposed of in the reject pile at the wood yard.

Marketing

There are only a handful of exporters in the Eastern United States who have direct contact with Japanese buyers. Even though paulownia export is a more profitable business than handling logs of native species, paulownia is still not a mainline product for wood dealers in north Alabama. Dealers in Tennessee will buy paulownia as a service to loggers and landowners.

Landowners who truly have some high quality paulownia trees on their property usually fail to obtain adequate compensation for their logs because they don't know how much their trees are really worth. Experienced buyers who are aware of the values involved usually make fair offers to purchase and harvest even individual paulownia trees. At other times, though, unscrupulous buyers have knowingly misrepresented paulownia as cottonwood trees and paid extremely low stumpage rates accordingly. On the other hand, inexperienced landowners have also overestimated the value of fast growing trees which are not salable and have no value on the export or domestic markets.

Many people who sell paulownia logs directly to exporters are not professional loggers but enterprising people who may only bring in one or two logs at a time on a trailer. Logs should be merchandized to maximize their value. Cut limbs off smooth with the bole and haul full tree length if possible. If you must buck the log, it is better to bring in 12-foot logs with defects in the butt

rather than a clear 8-foot log. Higher prices are usually offered by wood dealers in the fall and winter when the sap content and shipping weights are lowest.

Basically, the same guidelines apply to the sale of even one paulownia log as for a whole tract of traditional Alabama timber: do your homework before you sell, get expert help first if available, know what you have, seek competitive bids from as many buyers as possible, do business on the basis of a written timber sale contract and allow removal only after cash is paid in advance.

Although paulownia wood lacks construction strength, it could be used domestically here in the United States for a multitude of wood items: furniture, paneling, pianos, veneer, boats, toys, molding, picture frames, chips for bedding, chicken house litter, wood carvings, charcoal and so on. It can be mixed with chips of other species to make a lighter particle board. The short, soft fibers can still be used to make specialty type papers where great strength is not necessary. In all utilization tests, paulownia performed well. The main problem with paulownia is that there just isn't enough of it around right now to get a potentially serious user excited about it. Not until plantation-grown trees are ready for harvest will enough wood be available for these new products.

Alabama Paulownia Plantations?

So what about the future? Could paulownia be feasibly grown as an alternative cash-crop tree species in Alabama?

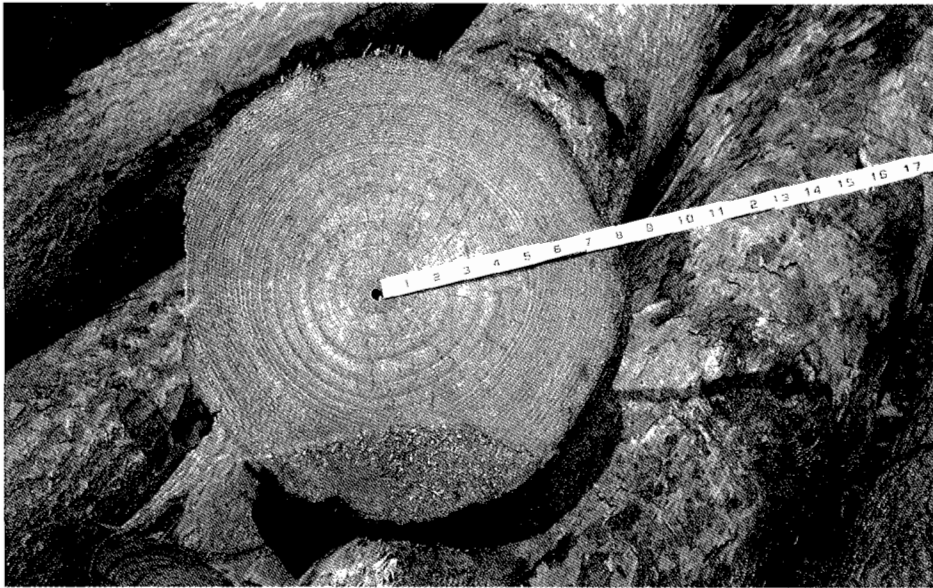
A major problem for paulownia in the southern extreme of its range is that diameter growth is usually too fast to

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This paulownia log grew too fast at first but eventually slowed down to acceptable density standards.

meet export standards. Here in Alabama, open grown paulownia is capable of putting on two inches or more in diameter growth each year. During the peak of its growth cycle in late summer, sprouts can grow a foot in height each week; up to 15 feet in one year!

Short rotation paulownia crops are not feasible because slow growth is required in order to have a salable product at the end of the rotation. Most plantation grown trees from areas such as China and Taiwan grow too fast with wide growth rings that produce softness and coarse grain. It takes several plantation-grown trees to match the same price as a single older, wild-grown tree such as a veteran of the woodlot.

Even if successful methods of propagating and growing good quality

paulownia in Alabama plantations are developed, there is no guarantee that there will be a market for it 25 or 30 years down the road. As the world supply of available wild paulownia quickly runs out, it would seem that the Japanese buyers would have to rely more and more on plantation-grown trees.

What's the bottom line? **DON'T** try paulownia plantations if what you're looking for is quick profits or a sure thing. Not enough is known about it and the projected market is too uncertain. No one would like to see tree farmers putting money into a paulownia plantation, thinking they'll get rich quick, and then lose their entire investment. It may become a valuable resource eventually, but right now it is still a novelty.

On the other hand, if you're the type who likes to explore the unknown, are willing to gamble and have some free land, money and time, then why not go ahead? First learn everything you can about paulownia, then try a small experimental plantation on your own. You'll gain some experience, have some fun, and—who knows?—maybe even wind up with a tidy profit 25 or 30 years from now.

For More Information

Dr. Peter Beckjord, *The Kiri Newsletter*, 4303 Kenny St., Beltsville, MD 20705; 301-937-4635.

William Brown; "Conference on Royal Paulownia," November 13, 1990, University of Tennessee Conference Center; 615-974-0250.

Don Burdette, Alabama Forestry Commission, P.O. Box 2995, Florence, AL 35630; 205-767-1414.

James Parks, Parks Logging Co., P.O. Box 303, Fayetteville, TN 37334; 615-433-5595.

Norman Ray, Grower, Rt. 4, Box 468, Florence, AL 35630, 205-767-5235.

Dr. David Sutton, Early Bird Nursery, Rt. 1, Box 411, Parrottsville, TN; 615-625-1362.

Dr. R.C. Tang, Auburn Forest Products Research Lab, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849; 205-844-4000.

Reference

Hardie, Ian, John Kundt and Emiko Miyasaka. "Economic Feasibility of U.S. Paulownia Plantations." *Journal of Forestry*, October, 1989, pp. 19-24. ♣

Faulkner Receives John M. Collier Award

The John M. Collier Award for Forest History Journalism was recently presented to Gary Faulkner of Montgomery. He received the award from the Forest History Society for his article, "Alabama's First Forest—a Historical Reflection," which appeared in the Spring, 1989 issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*.

The focus of the article is the documentation of Alabama's first forest by early explorers. The first forest is the virgin forest that was here when settlers started arriving.

Collier was a distinguished working journalist and former director of the Forest History Society. During his 40-

year professional writing career he earned a notable reputation in the fields of journalism, public affairs, government relations, history and biography. The Forest History Society is pleased to be able to memorialize him in a way that is meaningful to the journalistic community.

Faulkner was presented the award—a limited edition woodcut—at Joe Wheeler State Park on July 25 by Bill Sizemore, president of the Forest History Society. Faulkner, a forester formerly with the Alabama Forestry Commission, is now employed by the Alabama Development Office. ♣



Bill Sizemore and Gary Faulkner

SEEDLING SURVIVAL— How Is Alabama Doing?

by DAVID HOGE, Reforestation Specialist,
Alabama Forestry Commission

The lack of precipitation in certain parts of the state during the summer months has some people expressing concern over tree seedling survival. Seedling survival is the result of a complex interaction between the genetic constitution of the seedling, the cultural practices of the nursery, the care and handling of the seedling from lifting through planting, and the environmental stresses imposed on the seedling following planting. Seedling mortality factors can be reduced significantly by following a few simple guidelines, such as the reforestation standards established by the Alabama Forestry Commission. A copy of the standards can be obtained from any Forestry Commission office.

To monitor the effectiveness of the reforestation standards and estimate statewide survival, the Forestry Commission conducts an annual fall survey of one-year-old plantations. This survey consists of an inspection of between 650 to 700 planting sites. These sites are randomly selected from the total population of all known plantings that occurred the previous winter.

At each site, several 1/100th-acre plots are taken to determine average survival. In addition, seedlings are observed for general condition and believed causes of mortality.

The results of several annual survival surveys are summarized in **TABLE 1**. Seedlings planted during

the 1989-90 season will not be evaluated for survival until November, 1990.

As a possible explanation to the figures shown in **TABLE 1**, the years 1985-88 contained significant spring drought. Full-scale implementation of the Forestry Commission's reforestation standards began in 1987-88.

To answer the question, then, of how Alabama is doing with respect to seedling survival, the answer is: good. The quality of planting is better now than it was five years ago. Sufficient spring rains the last two years have also contributed to seedling survival. The survival estimates for Alabama are comparable to those reported by neighboring states. ♣

Table 1

Alabama Seedling Survival 1985-89

Planting Season:	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
North Alabama	76.9%	69.4%	73.8%	75.7%	87%
Central Alabama	86.3%	72.5%	76.3%	76.5%	87%
South Alabama	76.9%	70.6%	70.6%	70.6%	86.7%

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Special Offer To Readers

The Alabama Forestry Commission has grown a limited number of autumn olive seedlings on a trial basis. As a special offer to readers of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*, we are making these seedlings available. Orders will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Order forms may be obtained from any AFC office. The price of the seedlings is \$15 per 100 plants. Don't forget to order now for all your seedling needs.

Autumn olive was first used extensively as a wind break in mid-western crop fields to retard soil erosion. It was soon discovered that quail fed readily on the fleshy fruits. An especially attractive feature of autumn olive is that the fruits remain attached to the shrub into late fall and winter, providing food for quail and other birds when other sources are scarce. In addition to its value as food, autumn olive forms a dense shrub which provides escape cover.

Autumn olive is a large shrub or small tree that attains a height of 10 to 15 feet. The bark is thin, smooth, and changes from copper-brown to



Autumn olive

gray as the plant ages. The leaves are dark green on the top surface and pale yellow-green on the underside. Occasionally a dull thorn is found on the twigs. Small yellow blossoms occur in the spring. The fruit is a small red berry, 1/4 inch in diameter, and is persistent on the stem into winter. It is an excellent wildlife food.

Autumn olive grows on deep sandy loam to clay soils that are well drained. Competition from adjacent herbaceous weeds and woody shrubs should be eliminated or controlled.

Planting of autumn olive should occur in mid-winter to early spring (December-early April). ♣



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