ALABAMA'S

TREASURED FORESTS

A Publication of the Alabama Forestry Commission

Dedicated to the memory of
C.W. "Bill" Moody
State Forester
1970-1993

Fall 2019

Message from the *STATE FORESTER*

In this issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*, we are memorializing a leader . . . not just a man who lead the Alabama Forestry Commission, but someone who was a leader in all facets of his life. C. W. "Bill" Moody was the State Forester of Alabama from 1970-1993. While the agency existed for many years before he took the reins, this period was certainly the 'heyday' of the AFC. Not to diminish who we are today of course, but if you look at numbers and dollars, the Commission was much bigger back then, thanks largely to Mr. Moody's vision.

Rick Oates, State Forester

I knew Mr. Moody in two regards: first as State Forester, and as the president of an organization called Stewards of Family Farms, Ranches, and Forests (STEWARDS). For those of you may not be aware, STEWARDS was an organization dedicated to protecting the constitutional rights of private landowners, allowing them to own land without the fear of having it unfairly taken away by the government. Mr. Moody was one of two men in my professional life who have mentored me and given great career advice, a leader I have always wanted to emulate.

Everyone knows his passion for landowners and the forest resources of our state. As he endeavored to launch the TREASURE Forest Program, his goal was to help landowners find the resources they needed to become better stewards, and to recognize them for their efforts. In his essay in the booklet entitled History of TREASURE Forest, Mr. Moody said, "This has never been about convincing private landowners to be responsible forest managers. It was always about finding such landowners, who abound in the nation, and providing them with information, giving them a name, and getting them together as a force for good. It is somewhat like the preacher's story about the coal fire. As long as the coals are together, you will have a warm and vigorous fire, but scatter the coals, and the fire will go out."

During my time with the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA), I grew to appreciate Mr. Moody all the more as I learned how those landowners felt who knew him best. The leaders of the ATFA were, in many cases, the landowners who first signed on to the TREASURE Forest concept. They loved and respected Bill Moody as a visionary leader who knew how to organize people to accomplish a goal. That's the kind of leader I hope to be, but realize I have a long way to go.

Even more important to me than the respect his employees and landowners had for him was the obvious love and respect I saw from his son, Mike. That told me that in addition to being a good leader at the Alabama Forestry Commission, he was a good father and family leader. Something I've tried to imitate as well. If just a little piece of Mr. Moody's leadership lives on in me, I will be proud!

Please join me, as you read the tributes to C. W. Moody beginning on page 16 in this edition of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, in remembering and thanking a great man for his leadership and tremendous impact on the forestland of Alabama and the nation.

Rick Oates

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The Alabama Forestry Commission supports the Alabama Natural Resources Council's TREASURE Forest program. *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, published by the Alabama Forestry Commission, is intended to further encourage participation in and acceptance of this program by landowners in the state, offering valuable insight on forest management according to TREASURE Forest principles. TREASURE is an acronym that stands for **T**imber, **R**ecreation, **E**nvironment, and **A**esthetics for a **S**ustained **U**sable **RE**source.

ALABAMA'S
TREASURED FORESTS
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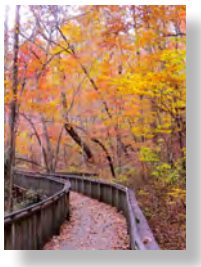

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This publication is provided at no charge to the forest landowners of Alabama, with a circulation of approximately 14,000. Published three times each year, the magazine is filled with forestry information and technical assistance designed to assist landowners in making informed decisions about the management practices they apply to their land. Articles and photographs are contributed by AFC employees and other forestry or natural resources professionals.

Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine is also available on-line! **www.forestry.alabama.gov**

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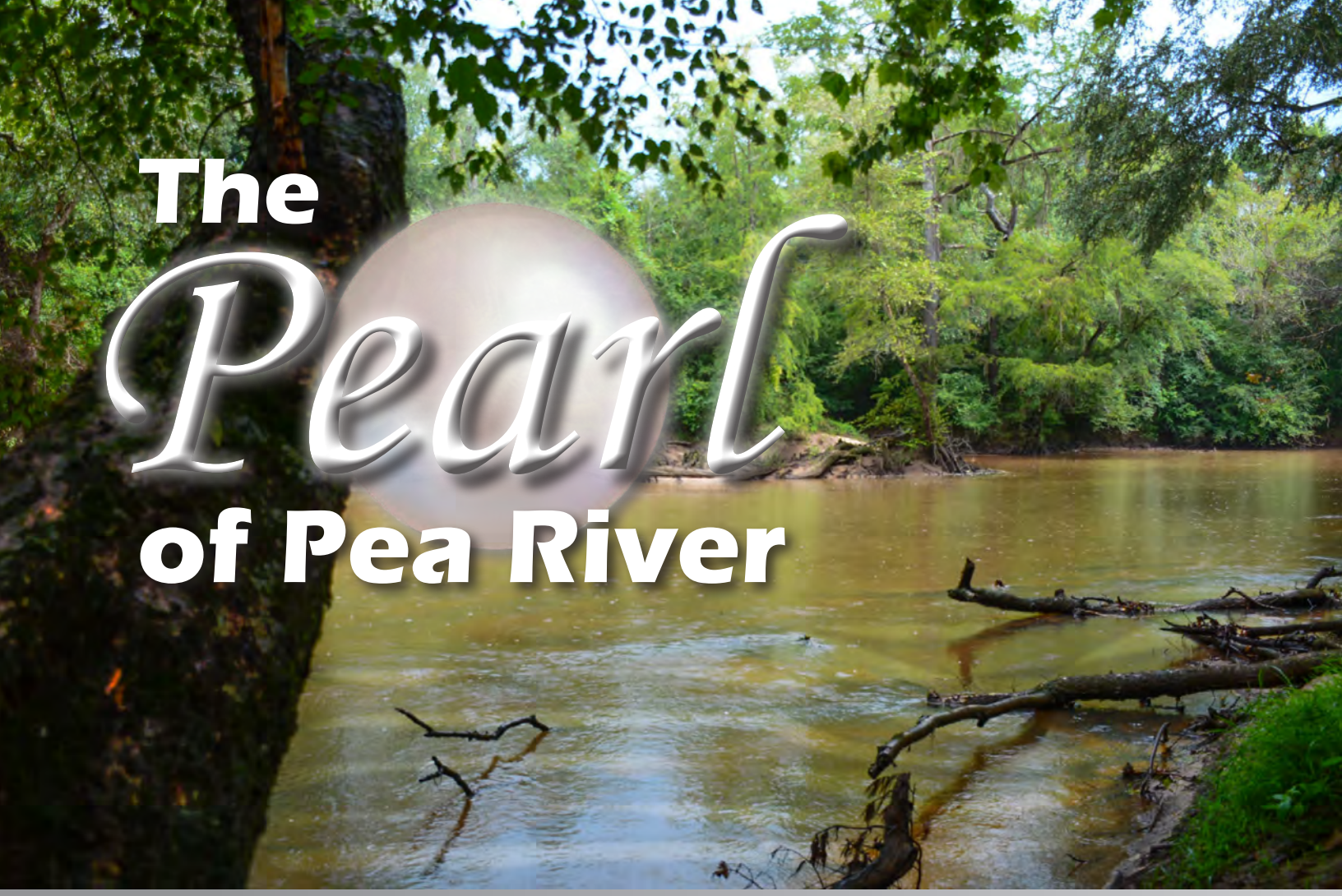


The Pearl of Pea River

By Nick Granger, Work Unit Manager, Alabama Forestry Commission

One of life's great wonders is the formation of natural pearls. You may ask yourself how a beautiful gemstone could be the byproduct of gnarly-looking creatures such as mollusks. When beginning the formation of a pearl, a mollusk reacts to particles such as food or sand that become trapped inside its shell. A special mineral produced by the mollusk called *nacre*, often referred to as 'mother of pearl,' is continually compacted around the invading particle until it forms the iridescent orb with which we are all familiar. The process seems like nature's magic trick.

Some pearls take anywhere from six months to four or more years to form. The longer the stones take to form, the more their value increases. What some landowners already know is that the cultivation of forestland is a lot like the creation of pearls. The Newmans of Coffee County began forming their own natural gemstone many years ago. With time, not only has their property value increased, but also the various ways it has been utilized and shared; so much that it has made them the recipients of several awards.

Mike and Joan Newman purchased their property along the Pea River in 1987. They were given the option of purchasing both the land and timber together, or either of them individually. They were not sure if they could afford to purchase both, so they decided to purchase the land and a local logger purchased the timber. The logger wanted to harvest all the timber, even the hardwoods along the Pea River and in the wet areas. Mike and Joan knew it was important to leave a Streamside Management Zone for erosion control, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics, so they paid him to leave the hardwoods. Looking back, Mike described the land as "a clearcut and a garbage dump." Joan added, "but it was an *affordable* garbage dump!"

The previous owner lived out of town, giving trespassers easy access to the property. Close proximity to the Pea River made it an appealing hangout for a few locals, some of which actually did use the property as a garbage dump. In an effort to curtail unwanted intruders, Mike installed gates and cables to limit access. Then site preparation activities began. The Newmans hired heavy equipment contractors to install access roads and firelanes. Wildlife openings were also created, and the clearcut was site prepped with prescribed burning.

During the winter, loblolly pine trees were planted on soil types that would support them. When the pines were two years old, they were released by aerial spraying. Additional hardwoods were planted in some of the wet portions of the property. A low-lying area was designated as a permanent wetland for waterfowl, where wood duck boxes were constructed and placed.

Over the next 30 years, the Newmans continued to make improvements to the property. Today, they still practice good stewardship and aggressively manage their timberland to achieve multiple benefits. Planted pine stands have been thinned three times, and Mike burns the stands every two to three years. A few

Above: Forest landowner Mike Newman inspects sorghum on his prized dove field. Inset: Mike and Joan enjoy a UTV ride through their property along with Pearl, their four-legged companion.

years ago, he treated the understory in the pine stands to reduce the woody competition and promote grasses.

Several acres of wildlife food plots are planted and annually maintained. Both hard and soft mast-producing trees have been planted throughout the property to provide additional food sources for wildlife. One of the most unique and ingenious additions to the farm is an artificial power line that Mike constructed above a five-acre field. On this opening, he rotates crops of sunflowers, sesame, sorghum, and corn to attract dove along with various other types of wildlife.

Hardwood stands are still excluded from timber harvesting and prescribed burning activities in order to enhance the wildlife population and serve as a Streamside Management Zone (SMZs) against erosion. These SMZs consist of good mast-producing trees along river and creek bottoms, as well as drainage ditches throughout the property, providing cover, travel corridors, roosting sites, and winter food sources for wildlife. A road and firelane system is maintained throughout the property not only to divide the various timber stands, but also aid in navigating the property. Several miles of forest trails are also maintained for leisure walks throughout the property. Providing a scenic view overlooking the Pea River, a pavilion has been constructed to be used as a picnic area for family gatherings.

Through the years, Mike and Joan have routinely consulted with forestry and other natural resource professionals. They have been provided recommendations and management plans by the Alabama Forestry Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Stone Container Corporation, along with several forestry consultants. The Newmans follow the advice of these professionals, frequently inviting them to visit the farm to observe their progress. Mike oversees all of the forest management activities including timber sales, reforestation, timber improvement practices, road maintenance, and wildlife plantings. Other than plantation planting, occasional mechanical site prep, and helicopter spraying, the majority of management activities have been performed by Mike, Joan, their friends, and family.

Now that he is retired, one of Mike's favorite pastimes is rambling through the forest on his utility task vehicle (UTV) with his best buddy by his side, Pearl the dog. He says, "Pearl is always happy to see me, no matter what, and she never questions any of my decisions!"

Both Mike and Joan take pleasure in sharing their forestland with others. They invite landowners to visit the property to both observe forest management activities and learn how to implement them. When they hosted the South Alabama Regional Forestry Field Day in 2014, over 150 fellow landowners and agency personnel were in attendance, along with Alabama's Second Congressional District Representative Martha Roby. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch at the pavilion and participated in several tours throughout the property to gain information

(Continued on page 6)

The *Pearl* of Pea River

(Continued from page 5)

about hardwood management, wetland management, herbicide use in loblolly pine stands, and dove field management.

Many other groups accept the hospitality of the Newmans including the local Boy Scout troops who visit the property to earn forestry-related merit badges, as well as enjoy a camporee on the Pea River. Mike hosts the First Baptist Church 'father/son' campout and youth Sunday School class on the Pea River. He also sponsors (parent-supervised) youth deer and turkey hunts. Several young people have harvested their first deer from the property, and a few have harvested their first turkeys. As a fundraising event, the Wiregrass United Way auctions a deer hunting trip to the Newman property. They have even hosted a Texas A&M-style bonfire for helicopter flight students stationed at Fort Rucker Military Base and their families. Several new Alabama Forestry Commission employees completed the field exercise portion of the Basic Wildland Fire Fighter course on the Newman's property.

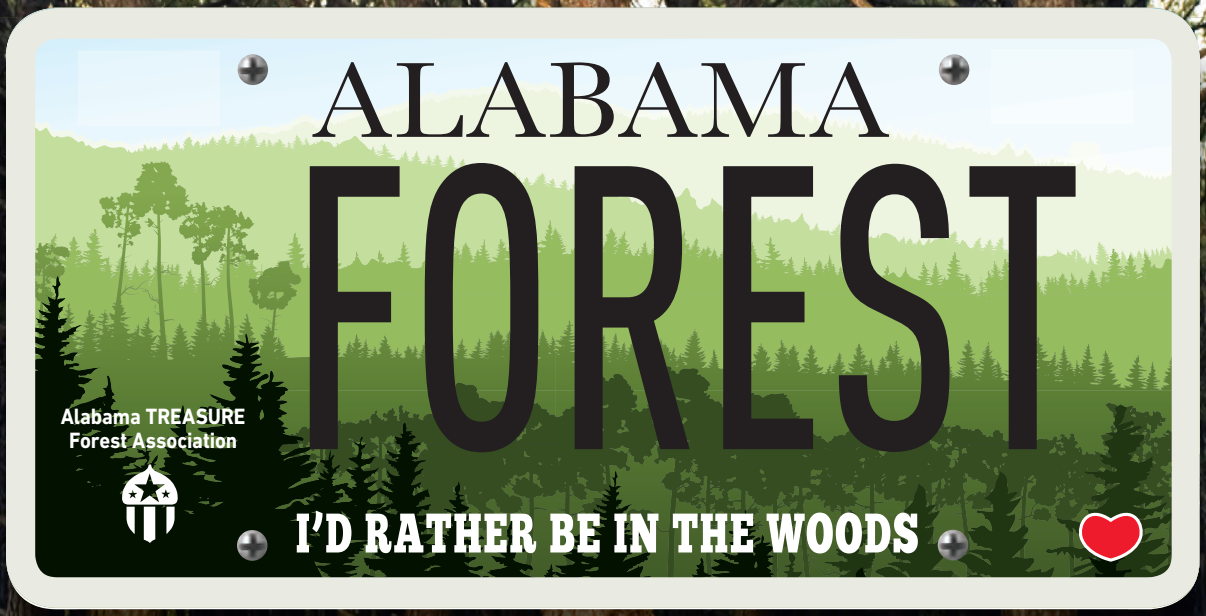
In addition to Mike and Joan's hard work leading to their property being certified as a TREASURE Forest, Stewardship Forest, and Tree Farm, they've also received recognition on the local, state, and national levels. In 2007, the couple received the Coffee County Farm City Forestry Award. Their property was named Alabama's Tree Farm of the Year in 2014, and then in 2015 they were named finalists as the Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. Perhaps the culmination of the Newmans' success was in receiving the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award in 2018.

Since they purchased it, this Pea River property has sustained three floods (the most recent at Christmas 2015) and two major hurricanes. But these natural disasters have not discouraged Mike and Joan. Most recently, the Alabama Department of Transportation has acquired 11 acres of the farm to construct a new bridge over the Pea River. Over the past 18 months, construction crews have altered the entrance to the property along State Highway 167.

Mike Newman and AFC Forester Nick Granger discuss the management of future pine plantations.

Hopes are that this bridge project will be completed in 2020, and in the coming years the Newmans will address the challenges from the aftermath of this construction. Once the final crew drives off, the planning and hard work to restore the entrance to their property will begin, ensuring that this TREASURE Forest remains safely nestled for future generations. Afterall, as Mike so often states, "Nobody really owns the land except God. We're all just caretakers to pass it down, hopefully in better shape than we received it."

Mike and his beloved best friend "Pearl" survey his young pine stand.



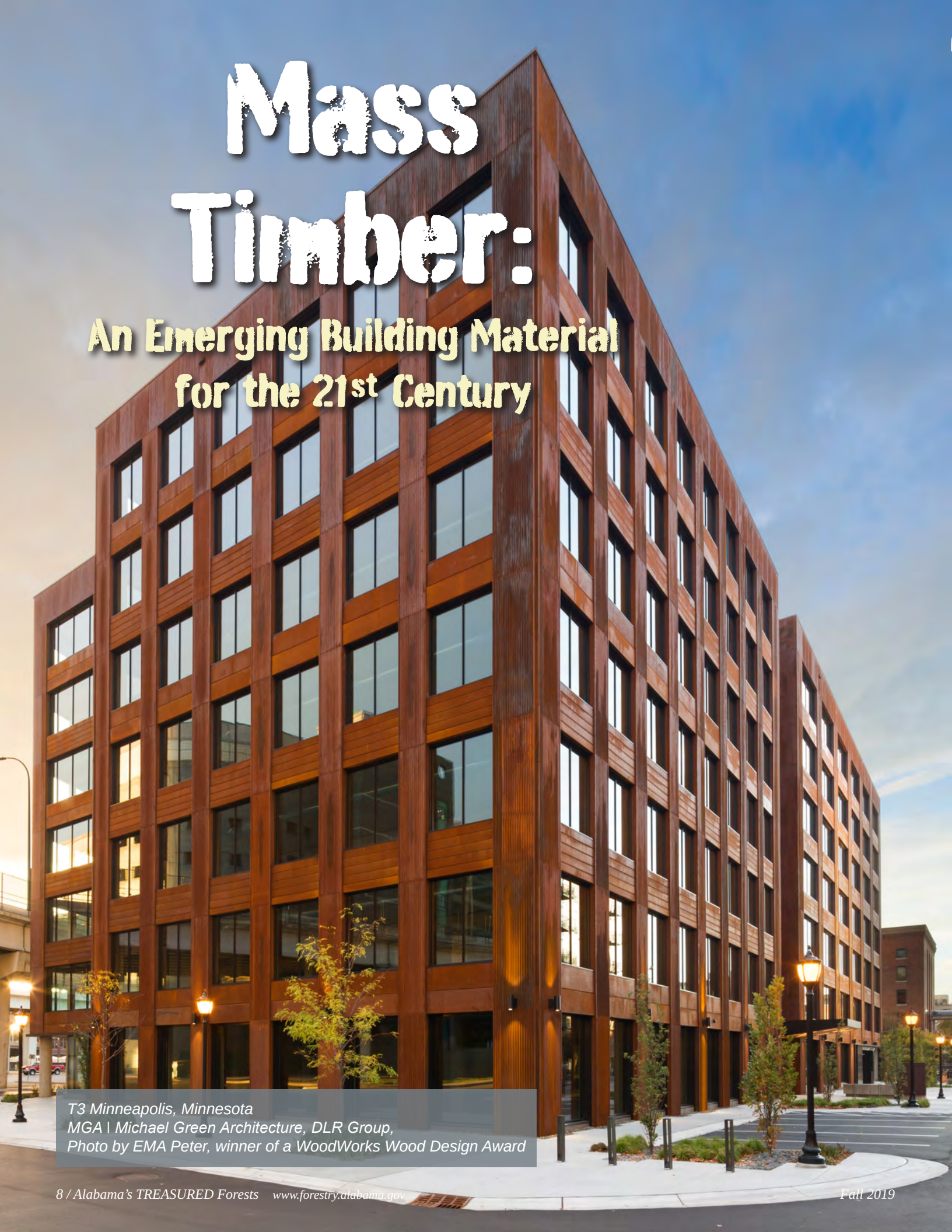
TAG, I'M IT!

Show your colors everywhere you go and proudly support the education efforts of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

For more information, visit TREASUREforest.org or a local probate office.

Mass Timber:

An Emerging Building Material for the 21st Century



T3 Minneapolis, Minnesota
MGA | Michael Green Architecture, DLR Group,
Photo by EMA Peter, winner of a WoodWorks Wood Design Award

By Dan Chappell, Forestry Program Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission

Although most people probably do not think about 'high-tech' and innovation when they think about lumber and forest products, the fact is that our field is constantly in a state of change as advances in genetics research, automation, efficiency gains, and more keep the Southeast well positioned to compete effectively in a global marketplace. One example of new technology that has come home to Alabama – International Beams in Dothan – is the emerging industry for Mass Timber, which is a more general term for cross laminated timber (CLT) and associated products such as dowel-laminated timber (DLT), glue-laminated timber (glulam), and others.

Although this technology is native to Europe, where it has been in place for roughly two decades, it has taken time for us on this side of the Atlantic to climb on board. And even in North America, the first manufacturing facilities for mass timber were located in the Pacific Northwest and in Canada, where the tree species are much different from what we are used to seeing here. The question was, would our Southern Yellow Pine (loblolly, longleaf, shortleaf, and slash) provide lumber suitable for conversion into mass timber? With ongoing research assistance provided by the Forest Products Development Center at Auburn University, the answer arrived at by the International Beams company was "Yes, southern pine is a fit for our product."

What exactly is this product? Let's look at cross laminated timber. You have probably held a sheet of plywood before. You are picturing thin sheets of wood pressed together and held in place by an adhesive. CLT works on a similar principle, but the panels are created using dimension lumber. To maximize strength, the lumber is layered perpendicular at 90° angles, thus providing a strength axis no matter where forces are being applied. CLT panels can consist of three, five, seven, or even nine layers, depending upon the load-bearing strength needed, and the adhesives are state of the art. In fact, testing has revealed that the adhesive bonds are stronger than the wood itself.

Photo by Texas A&M Forest Service

First United Bank, Fredericksburg, Texas. The first building made with southern yellow pine from International Beams in Dothan, Alabama.

International Beams (IB), after a careful search for a southern hometown, selected to re-purpose an unoccupied existing manufacturing facility in Dothan. The site was a perfect fit, with proximity to major potential markets in Florida, Atlanta, and beyond. Major IB-manufactured projects are the First United Bank of Fredericksburg, Texas, and the Snow Family Outdoor Fitness and Wellness Center at Clemson University, highlighting the advantages of being able to serve the South from a central location.

You might be thinking that you have never seen this product on sale at your lumber supply store, and you would be correct. Panels are not currently sold to the general public. One of the amazing things about CLT is that when architects design a building out of this material, they use a computer to design the placement of all wiring and plumbing. At the factory, these design plans are then implemented in their computer systems. Each individual panel passes through a cutting-edge Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine, which preps each panel with the appropriate openings. When it comes time to load the delivery truck, each panel is packed in reverse order of when it will be used on the construction site. At the construction site, a small crew of trained individuals essentially follows the instructions and assembles something that resembles a LEGO house, with no need to drill holes for wires and pipes. Did I mention these structures can be up to 18 stories tall? I have not seen one of these high rises first hand, but the pictures make you think that you are viewing a building from the future.

So, with all these positives, and with the Southeast's only manufacturing facility, why are we not seeing more mass timber projects pop up? There are a few reasons. First is cost. Mass timber can be cost competitive with steel and concrete in large buildings. Do not look for mass timber to replace traditional wood framing in single-family homes or even apartment buildings any time soon. There is a learning curve involved for building contractors as they learn the advantages of this material. Up until now there has been a tendency to 'price in' this uncertainty. With experience, this will change. Although the upfront cost of materials may be marginally higher for mass timber as compared with traditional materials, there are the twin advantages of being able to construct a building in a shorter time with a smaller construction team. If anticipated labor shortages in the construction trades continue and even intensify, the advantage of being able to build faster with fewer workers will become magnified. The less time spent building a hotel, the sooner the paying customers can start to check in.

A second reason for not seeing more mass timber projects is professional knowledge. It simply takes time for architects and builders to re-train themselves to be able to produce their work using a different medium with different properties and different methods. However, this knowledge is being diffused. There is now a 57-hour construction course being offered in Chicago where construction teams not only learn about mass timber, but

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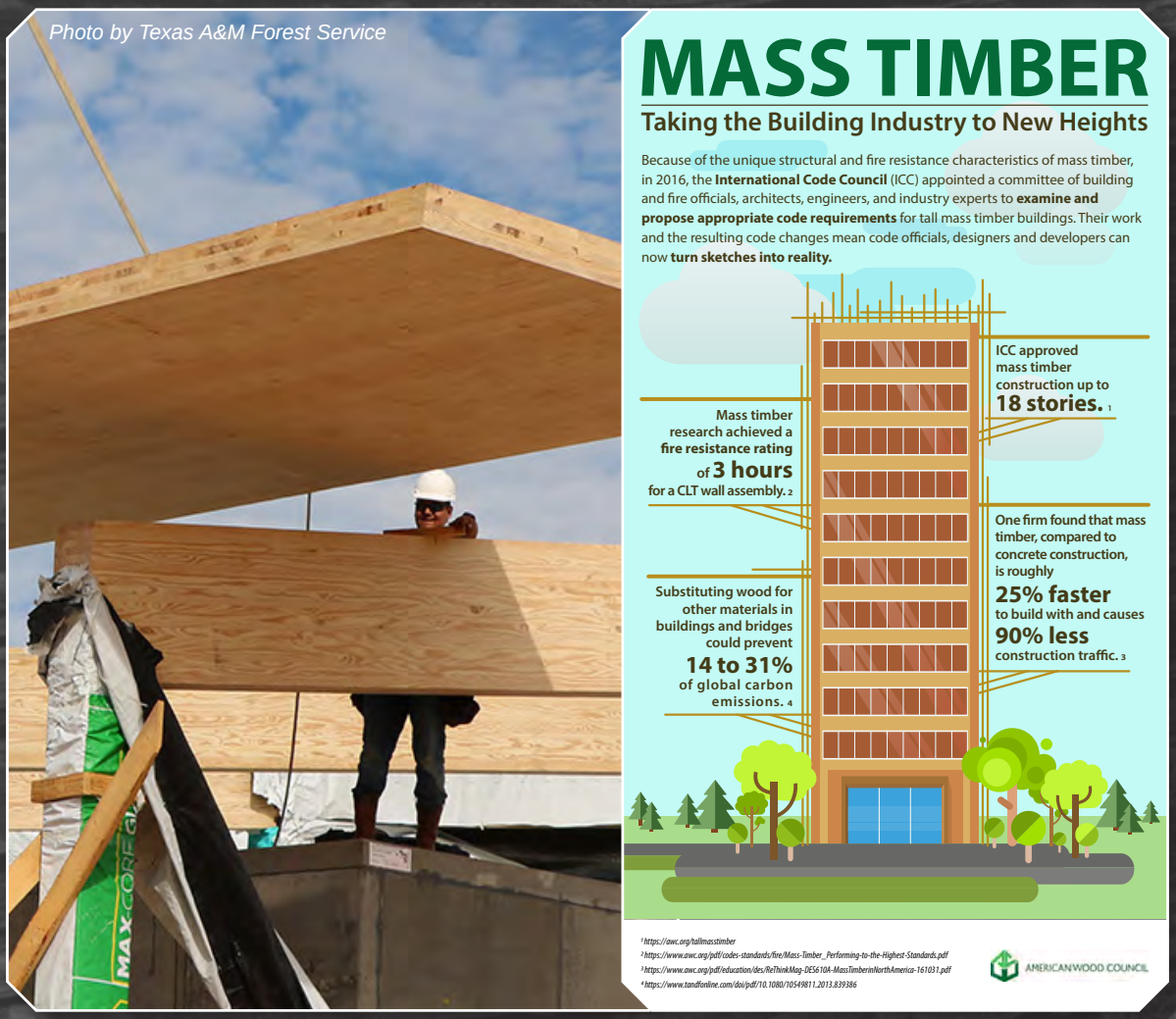

Mass Timber:
An Emerging Building Material for the 21st Century

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also acquire hands-on experience building 'practice' CLT structures. Learning how to correctly use the multiplicity of joints is key to this type of construction. Universities are now including mass timber in their architecture curriculums. There is a small number of 'champion' architects who are now designing prestige buildings to be built out of mass timber. That number is growing, but the reality is that the majority of practicing architects have not worked with this material and need additional training to become proficient.

A third major obstacle involves building codes. The country is covered by a patchwork of differing local building codes. Simple lack of guidance in the codes for mass timber has slowed adoption. Research has been conducted, and hard data has been collected on mass timber's structural and fire resistance characteristics. Additionally, as this technology is moving out of Europe and into North America and Australia, it is gaining its own dedicated section in the International Building Code (IBC). The next revision of the IBC is due in 2021, with proposed changes that will allow for wooden buildings up to 18 stories.

The tall buildings that have been built up until now rely on local code exemptions, or in the case of Oregon, on laws passed specifically to encourage mass timber construction of tall buildings. With publication of the updated IBC in 2021, and as localities move to adopt the new standards as their own, more and more jurisdictions will be able to permit these medium and tall wooden structures in the normal course of business. This process has been slow, but it is moving ahead.

If, after reading this article, you have questions or interest in pursuing a mass timber project of your own, do not reach out to me. I am not the expert. Fortunately, there is an organization of engineers you can contact, who seek the success of mass timber. And better than that, the one-on-one project support they offer is provided at no cost. The organization is WoodWorks, and its regional representative is Jeff Peters, PE. Their site at www.woodworks.org is the premier resource for learning about mass timber and what needs to happen to carry a project from dream to reality. While there, you can view the gallery, with amazing images of finished mass timber projects and works in progress.

ALABAMA COUNTS!

2020 CENSUS

Provided by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

Next year, Alabamians have a big opportunity to affect the state's future in a major way. The 2020 Census will dictate the distribution of over $675 billion in federal funding to local and state governments. This funding supports schools, healthcare, infrastructure, community assistance and more. And its impact can last for decades to come in more ways than one.

The census, which dates all the way back to 1790, counts every person – both adults and children – living in the United States. This information gathered is then used to monitor changes in communities, identify and address public service needs such as health care, education, public safety, housing, food, and rural access to broadband. The Census Bureau also uses the data to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Please participate in the census and encourage people you know to do so as well. Alabama stands to lose a Member of Congress if we don't," says State Forester Rick Oates. "Because there is a set number of congressional districts across the country, our loss will be another state's gain in the House of Representatives, and perhaps more importantly, the Electoral College — the group that the Constitution established to vote for the President. No matter your politics, I am sure everyone agrees that Alabama deserves to have as much representation as possible. We need all of us to stand up and be counted in 2020!"

On or around April 1, 2020, each Alabama household will receive a postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau. It will contain instructions for how to complete the census. Residents can respond online, by phone or via traditional paper form. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Each participant's information is protected by law.

The Alabama Counts! 2020 Census Committee, an organization dedicated to the Census and its importance to the state, is leading the effort to ensure Alabamians are prepared to complete and return the form. The committee was created by Gov. Kay Ivey in an executive order in August 2018.

Participation in the census is of the highest importance, since the next 10 years of federal funding will be determined by the survey. It is estimated that in 2016, more than $13 billion was allocated to the state of Alabama from programs affected by the previous census. 2020's census will have even more money at stake for families in Alabama. Government employees, teachers, church leaders, business owners, and residents alike have much at stake. Alabama Counts! encourages everyone to talk to those in their communities about the 2020 Census and its importance to them and their families. More information is available at www.census.alabama.gov.

#alabamacounts
census.alabama.gov

ALABAMA FOREST INDUSTRY DIRECTORY: A SECONDARY MILL SURVEY

By Gary Faulker, Economic Development Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, and Abi Dhakal, GIS Specialist Senior, Alabama Forestry Commission

The State of Alabama has achieved stunning economic development progress. Headlines across the state have exploded with exciting new and expanding announcements of manufacturing, citing billions of dollars of capital investment and thousands of new job creations. Alabama has been recognized time and again by national organizations with accolades such as "State of the Year," "Gold Shovel Award," and "Top States for Business," regarding its economic development success. Of course, such accomplishments further strengthen the state's economy by providing a better quality of life for its citizens.

These are also remarkable years for wood-based economic development. More importantly, Alabama's wood-based industrial sector has contributed significantly to these headlines. Appropriately, forestry products are one of the state's targeted business sectors pursued by the Alabama Department of Commerce recruitment strategy – Accelerate Alabama (www.madeinalabama.com/assets/2017/01/Accelerate-Alabama-2.0.pdf). Alabama's wood-based industry is a story of success – especially in our rural communities.

Forest Industry Growth

Forest Products Totals for New & Expanding Industry 2009-2018

Year	Total Projects	Total Jobs	Total Capital Investment
2018	54	1,975	$1,304,165,269
2017	47	1,464	$1,284,628,303
2016	50	1,005	$1,196,773,911
2015	43	917	$897,061,100
2014	33	799	$640,750,000
2013	35	1,385	$209,526,000
2012	31	1,235	$302,599,400
2011	24	566	$161,297,013
2010	27	348	$118,409,755
2009	23	599	$102,806,380

New forest products capital investment in Alabama increased from $103 million in 2009 to $1.3 billion in 2018.

Source: Alabama Department of Commerce, AIDT/Forest Product Developement Center

Forest Industry's Impressive Footprint

What has initiated this significant industry? Alabama's forest resources are found more abundantly now than ever in the history of recorded data, as documented by the most recent 2019 Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA). Geographically, our timberland is located throughout the furthest corners of the state spanning vast rural regions within our borders. Outside of the busy intersections of our bustling metropolitan areas, there is a vast renewable resource supplying a significant industrial footprint. Among many business requirements, other contributing factors that facilitate this manufacturing sector include transportation logistics, a business-friendly environment, and a productive workforce.

With an impressive fiber supply opportunity, Alabama feeds the demand of various value-added manufacturers. Wood utilization has been and is the primary catalyst of an impressive industrial profile. By the numbers, Alabama's wood product sector directly employs approximately 44,111 citizens, has 1,467 establishments, and generates $2.2 billion in wages according to the Alabama Department of Labor. Further, the industry produces approximately $16.3 billion in product shipments annually as calculated by the AIDT/Forest Product Development Center. Also, the industry exports approximately $1.56 billion interna-

tionally as noted by the Alabama Department of Commerce (International Trade Division).

How does our industry rank nationally? According to the AIDT/Forest Product Development Center, the state's wood-based industry is ranked second in pulp, paper, and paperboard production, third in lumber production, and sixth in panel production. It is widely held that every county in Alabama benefits economically by forestry and its industrial footprint.

Why A Forest Industry Directory?

The simple answer is marketing. A forest industry directory is primarily used by buyers in the wood product marketplace and by forest managers wishing to sell timber products. Other purposes for cataloging wood-based mills include customers who are desirous of marketing and contacting our industry for various services, facilitation of international trade, utilization by economic developers, and as a priority by the Southern Group of State Foresters to maintain an online mill listing.

Therefore, in 2019, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) conducted a secondary mill survey to refresh information for this value-added sector. Per general definition, a primary manufacturer uses logs/timber to produce a wood product, considered the first point of processing. Secondary manufacturers are mills using primary mill production for further value-added processing. Both primary and secondary mills were reviewed in the survey. These mills could be identified as sawmills with internal value-added operations to manufacturers who are far removed from initial log processing but utilize wood-based material for their products. Alabama's secondary mill population includes furniture and fixtures; kitchen cabinets and countertops; engineered wood members; millwork; converting paper product; pulp, paper, and paperboard; trusses; manufactured home manufacturers; transportation equipment; pellets; pole and piling; reconstituted wood products; and wood preservation, among others.

The Process

The 2019 secondary mill survey initiative utilized data from the AFC (Secondary Directory) and Commerce (Industrial Directory). As well, outreach to many economic development organizations were important to ensure a reasonable approach to gather as many mills within the directory as possible. After more than six months of due diligence, a database was produced to establish a mill listing. A data set was developed by the Alabama Forestry Commission GIS program of an ArcGIS map application using query utilization for directory users. The directory was placed on the AFC website in September 2019 (www.forestry.alabama.gov). The system can not only be edited to update the database, but the directory can also produce Excel files and maps for end users.

As the survey was essentially a secondary manufacturing endeavor, the data revealed interesting observations. The first example was various clusters of manufacturing occurring within certain geographical areas of Alabama. The Metropolitan Statistical Areas were the usual areas of secondary mill operations. However, also noted were the Winston-Marion County, Clay County, and Clarke County areas, to name a few. These populations of secondary mills may be due to concentration of supply chains that facilitate other existing manufacturers, or by existence of available workforce population centers for common mill operations. Another example is that the secondary mill survey illustrated relative population density of manufacturing oper-

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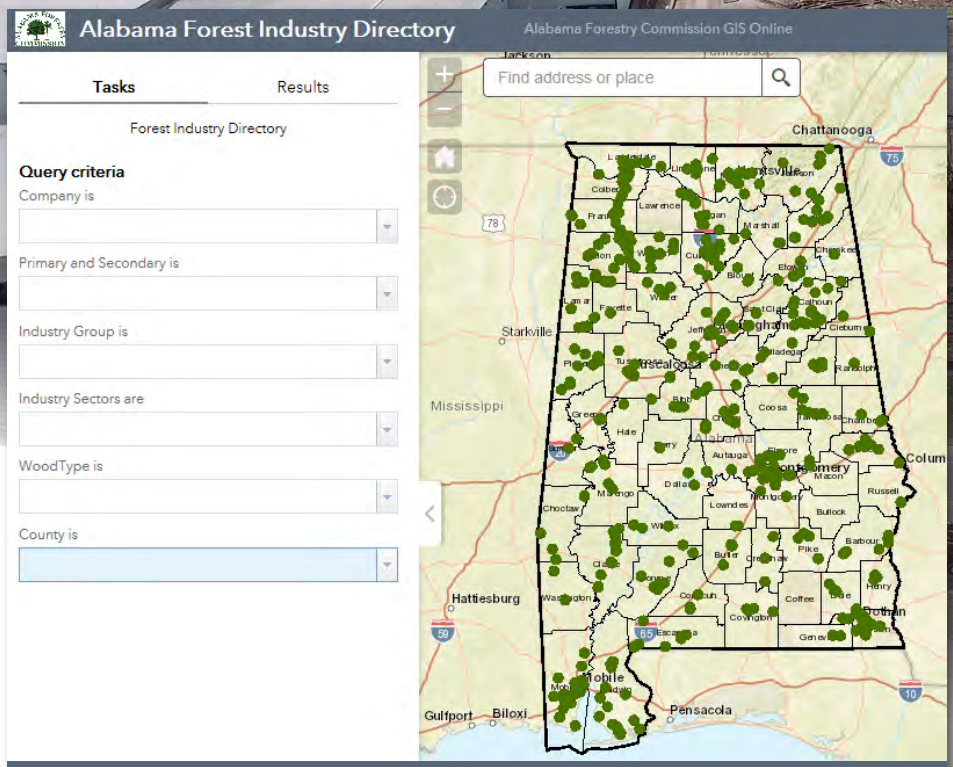


Map of mills located on the 2019 Forest Industry Directory at www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Management/ForestIndustryDirectory.aspx

2019 Alabama Forest Industry Directory: A Secondary Mill Survey

(Continued from page 13)

ations such as kitchen cabinet; converting paper product; millwork; wood container and pallet; truss; wood preservation; cut stock, resawing, and planning; manufactured home manufacturing; pulp, paper, and paperboard; as well as veneer and plywood manufacturing, among others.

Summary

With a historical legacy of wood-based manufacturing, the state's rural forest resources have continued to grow productively and contribute significant economic benefits for rural Alabama communities. The state's forest inventory today is the largest on record supplying the demands of hundreds of value-added manufacturing operations. The wood-based industry is one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the state providing value-added products and jobs from Alabama's renewable resources. Cataloging our state's mills by a practical forest industry directory provides a gateway for various match marketing opportunities for our industry. The state is home to a plethora of wood-based value-added manufacturers. Wood certainly has been good to Alabama.

New TREASURE Forest Certifications

Created in 1974 by members of the Alabama Natural Resources Council, TREASURE Forest designation is earned by private forest landowners who affirm the principles of multiple-use forest management. It is this forest landowner recognition program that inspired the national Forest Stewardship Program which began in 1991. TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics for a Sustained Usable REsource.

Congratulations to these landowners who recently earned their TREASURE Forest certifications! Alabama currently has 1,829 landowners with a total of 1,724,293 certified acres being managed under the AFC's TREASURE Forest Program.

Johnny Mack and Martha Morrow, 2019 Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award winners.

Landowner	County	Acres
Henry Adams	Lauderdale	138
Carter Anthony	Pike	346
Larry Baldridge	Marion	48
Thomas Bean	Talladega	447
Kenneth Beil	Shelby	95
Byron Billingsley	Lamar	723
Jeffery L. Elliot	Escambia	170
Dale Falk	Covington	135
Jerry Ferrell	Monroe	58
Charles Hartzog	Barbour	503
Tommy Haynes	Henry	77
Madison Hudson	Clarke	810
Chad Jones	Etowah	1210
Ron Kilgore	Coosa	347
Donna Kinstley	Blount	130
Wayne McCullough	Mobile	113
Steve McMellon	Monroe	136
Charles Moore	Cherokee	750
Morgan County Soil & Water	Morgan	18
Clarence William O'Conner	Escambia	47
Rodger D. Overton	Chilton	163
Herman & Beverly Pinion	Tuscaloosa	126
Larry Swiney	Tuscaloosa	80
Patrick Waldrop	Etowah	40
	Total	6,692

Photo by Coleen Vansant

C.W. "Bill" Moody

1930-2019

The Man Who Made Alabama "A Better Place for People Through Forestry"

By Coleen Vansant, Public Information Manager, Alabama Forestry Commission

On August 12th of this year, Alabama and the nation lost a legend in the arena of forestry, natural resources conservation, and rural community fire service. On that day, former State Forester C. W. "Bill" Moody passed away at the age of 89 after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Moody coined the phrase "Making Alabama a Better Place for People Through Forestry," which became the motto of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), the state agency he led for 23 years. His philosophy was that "we don't inherit our natural resources from our forefathers, we borrow them from our grandchildren." Everything that he did, he did to ensure that Alabama's abundant resources not only served the citizens of today, but that they would be developed and managed to meet the needs of future generations of Alabamians. He indeed lived his dream. Alabama possesses some of the most abundant, healthy, and diverse forests and natural resources in the nation.

He came to be Alabama's State Forester in 1970, after serving many years with our state's sister agency, the Florida Forest Service. He was 40 years old, and at the time was the youngest state forester in the nation. What he found here was not like what he had left in Florida. The Alabama Forestry Commission offered little in the area of organized and productive landowner services and the agency itself was lacking in training, equipment, and structure.

One of the first things he did was to begin building what you know today as the Alabama Forestry Commission.

After visiting all the county and district offices, he learned the strengths and weaknesses of the agency he now commanded. Issues found included lack of proper training in the areas of forest management and wildfire suppression, old and inadequate fire suppression equipment, as well as a lack of structure and consistency from office to office across the state. The most important thing he learned – the foundation he built upon – was the extraordinary potential of the individuals that made up the Alabama Forestry Commission.

It wasn't long before he had employees in an agency uniform. Equipment began to be replaced and repaired with funds he had secured from the state legislature. Training programs began in the fields of forest management and wildland fire suppression, which eventually developed into the Forest Ranger Academy. "The Academy" grew by leaps and bounds over the years to include 19 weeks of total instruction in the subjects of wildland fire equipment, wildland fire fighting, equipment maintenance, first responder training, physical fitness, forest management, dendrology, forest insects and diseases, urban forestry, information and education, prescribed burning, and forest utilization. When all areas of study were completed, students were trained to the Forest Technician level, which made a tremendous impact in providing services to landowners at the county level.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Moody brought the AFC into the computer age for programs such as forest management plans, urban forestry databases, wildfire data, and equipment records. We were far ahead of other state forestry agencies in the nation.

After a few years, all the old outdated, and in many cases unsafe, fire-fighting equipment was replaced with new equipment, as well as pickups and sedans within the AFC fleet.

Lobbying tirelessly for adequate funding for the Commission and its programs, Mr. Moody was a frequent visitor to the Alabama Capitol and State House. Just before his retirement, the Alabama Forestry Commission employed around 525 people (compared to approximately 226 full-time employees today.)

"The Forestry Commission continues to make great strides in serving forestry needs in rural, as well as urban, Alabama. Our associates are carefully selected and well trained to achieve a myriad of jobs which constantly demand our attention as we work to 'make Alabama a better place for people through forestry.'" – Quote by C. W. Moody, *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, Winter 1991, page 2.

One of Mr. Moody's greatest strengths was his ability to motivate people. Although his chastisement could make you want to crawl into a hole and cover up, he constantly praised the employees and the work we did. He wanted the Alabama Forestry Commission to lead the nation with our programs and he diligently provided us with the equipment, training, and resources to do just that. Over and over again he told us – as well as everyone that would listen to him outside the agency – that we were the best forestry agency in the nation. And we believed him. He told us we were the best, so we looked and performed like the best, and over time, we became just a little bit cocky about it. After all, Mr. Moody said we were the best.

When he visited the field, he did his homework asking the names and personal information on each associate in that office. He would then greet and shake hands with every person, calling them by name. Not only did he do this within the agency, but at any other meeting he attended. When he shook hands with a mayor, fire chief, or landowner, etc., he would call them by name. He had recorded it on the palm of his hand and had studied it before he met them!

Mr. Moody (left), and AFC Legislative Liaison Frank Sego (right) look on as Governor George C. Wallace (center) signs documents pertaining to the AFC.

Mr. Moody was well known for having notes written in ink in the palm of his hand. When making a presentation he usually spoke with his hands, so everyone was able to see his ink-covered palms.

Bill Moody created the Alabama Forestry Commission family. Although he would refer to us as 'my people,' we were to refer to ourselves inside and outside the agency as associates. We were more than workers or employees, we were 'associates.' He loved each one of us; we loved him and one another. And although some folks transferred to other agencies after he retired, or have since themselves retired over the years, we are all still members of that family he created.

Commenting about AFC Associates, Mr. Moody stated, ***"Through the years, we have responded to the challenges set before us. Our people have always made the difference."*** – The Alabama Forestry Commission Annual Report, State Fiscal Year 1984-85.

While building the 'best forestry agency in the nation,' Mr. Moody was also building programs and coalitions to help implement and promote those programs. The TREASURE Forest Program in Alabama was his brainchild. TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics, for a Sustained, Usable, Resource. This concept has not only been Alabama's premier forest management program for private non-industrial landowners, but it was also the model for the national Forest Stewardship Program, established and funded by Congress in 1990.

To help develop and promote the TREASURE Forest Program, Bill Moody carried his idea to the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (now the Alabama Natural Resources Council) which was organized in April 1971 under his leadership. A standing committee of the chief representatives of numerous government agencies whose programs impact private forest landowners, this organization was responsible for developing the required qualifications and criteria of the program and how landowners would achieve certification. According to Mr. Moody in an undated letter giving an overview of the history of the

(Continued on page 18)

C.W. "Bill" Moody:
The Man Who Made Alabama "A Better Place for People Through Forestry"

(Continued from page 17)

Mr. Moody (left) and U.S. Senator Howell Heflin demonstrate how to saw a log for onlookers during one of the Forest Festivals in Montgomery, circa mid '70s.

TREASURE Forest Program, "It is to this organization that the nation and the world owe a great debt of gratitude."

In order to reach a larger audience with the TREASURE Forest Program, the first issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine was published in 1982.

The first TREASURE Forest to be certified was Pineland in 1975, the property of Mr. Kelly Mosley in Marengo County. Since then, Alabama has certified 1,829 TREASURE Forest owners, who are practicing multiple use forest management on approximately 1,724,293 acres of land.

"When Alabama becomes one huge TREASURE Forest, we will have improved the quality of life for all Alabamians for generations to come. I believe this is possible and I believe ownership breeds responsibility, which greatly impacts on the future well-being of every Alabamian and American."
– Quote by C.W. Moody, *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, Spring 1984, Page 2.

In 1986, Mr. Moody established a State Forester's TREASURE Forest Advisory Committee, which was made up primarily of TREASURE Forest owners. This committee later became the Board of Directors of the TREASURE Forest Landowners Association. In his words, "The impact of this Association in Alabama over the ensuing years cannot be overstated." This group now presents an annual award in his name, the Bill Moody Award, to a TREASURE Forest landowner who exemplifies the spirit of sustainability and usability that Mr. Moody instilled in the program.

Seeing the need for Alabama's urban forest resources to be managed to their fullest potential, Mr. Moody brought urban forestry to the state in 1971. He saw the importance of forest management resources to the citizens who lived in our cities and towns. In 1981, Tree City USA became the primary urban forestry goal of the Alabama Forestry Commission. In 1989, the Alabama Urban Forestry Association (AFUA) was established. At the close of 2018, there were 79 certified Tree City USA communities and 12 Tree Campus USA schools in Alabama.

During a tour of the state by international guests, Mr. Moody was embarrassed when someone in the delegation commented that Alabama was a beautiful state, but it was "so dirty," referring to all the trash along the roadsides. After gathering dozens of people together for a brainstorming session, the result of their meeting was the creation of Alabama PALS, People Against a Littered State. This group was founded in 1987 and is still active in the state through programs such as Adopt-a-Mile, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-an-Area, Clean Campus, Coastal Cleanup, and the annual "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup. Bill Moody is recognized as the founder of this organization. He was also a leader in petitioning the Alabama Legislature in a successful effort to strengthen Alabama's anti-litter laws.

When Mr. Moody first came to Alabama as State Forester, rural fire departments and fire suppression was spotty across the state. Although many areas had fire departments, the areas they covered were vast, minimizing their effectiveness. Some areas had no rural fire service. Many of the departments lacked funding, proper dependable equipment, personal protective equipment, and training.

Over time, Mr. Moody was instrumental in acquiring and providing support for volunteer fire departments. In 1989, he was one of the founding members of the Rural Community Fire Protection Institute, which is a governing and oversight body for Alabama's rural fire services. Working with this group and others in the fire services arena, efforts were made to help departments that were not certified reach that goal, as well as petitioning the Alabama Legislature for additional funding for training, equipment, and personal protective equipment for rural volunteer fire departments. There are currently 976 certified volunteer fire departments serving the citizens across the state.

On at least three occasions, Mr. Moody represented the National Association of State Foresters (thus every citizen in the United States) in testifying before the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee regarding additional funding for rural fire protection and forestry programs for private landowners. The last time he testified in 1989, was to secure

Mr. Moody and Alabama's 49th Governor, Guy Hunt.

funding for the national Forest Stewardship program, the offspring of Alabama's TREASURE Forest program. His tireless work in obtaining funding for these programs has an impact on every man, woman, and child across the nation.

Throughout his journey as state forester and even beyond, Bill Moody was honored with numerous commendations including a Lifetime Director award from the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association,1991; an Extraordinary Merit Award from Alabama PALS, 1991; a Resolution of Commendation from the Alabama House of Representatives, 1993; Alabama Forester's Hall of Fame, 1993; Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of State Foresters, 1994; Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award from the University of Florida, 1998; and a Resolution of Commendation from Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, 2013. These are just a few of the accolades he received both in and out of state service.

Although this article covers a lot of information, in reality it only scratches the surface of the impact that State Forester C. W. Moody had on forestry and natural resources in Alabama. The fact is, he didn't just come up with ideas. He was such a visionary, his ideas were so thorough and deep-rooted that they are still productive and thriving, decades after he retired. The programs he implemented were the foundation for the forestry, natural resources, and rural fire protection programs that we enjoy today.

As long as a forest management plan is completed in the State of Alabama, or a TREASURE Forest or Tree City USA is certified . . . when someone participates in an Alabama PALS program . . . or when a volunteer fire department responds to a call . . . every time you pick up and read an issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine . . . you are helping continue the legacy of C. W. Moody . . . The man who made Alabama "A Better Place for People Through Forestry."

Mr. Moody with Iron Eyes Cody, the mascot of the 'Keep America Beautiful' anti-litter campaign. Cody was visiting northeast Alabama to film a television spot promoting Alabama's TREASURE Forest Program in November of 1984.

Past and present AFC employees gather round Mr. Moody at ATFA's annual meeting on October 14, 2016. Seated, left to right: Gary Cole, Regina Miller, Bill Moody, Willey (Norfleet) McCollum, and Bayne Moore. Standing, left to right: Steve Guy, Neil Letson, Dan Jackson, Ken Leslie, Benji Elmore, Tim Albritton, and Stanley Anderson.

Memories of Mr. Moody

Dan Jackson, Retired AFC Employee –

One of the best memories I have of Mr. Moody occurred during his last year of service as State Forester. He was making, what I refer to as, his 'farewell tour' to most district and county offices. At that time, I was the county forester in Walker County. After he looked around briefly, he came in to the office area and we all sat down. He proceeded to talk about his forestry philosophy for the Alabama Forestry Commission; where we had come from and the future for the agency, and we all listened intently. After a while of Mr. Moody talking, I began to notice some faint black marks on his face and hands. These marks puzzled me, so I looked a little closer and noticed some writing. Prior to arriving that morning, Mr. Moody had written our names with a pen on the palms of his hands. In the course of his speaking, he inadvertently touched his forehead, lightly smearing the writing on his forehead and palms.

I thought about what he had done and realized the thought he put in to being able to refer to us by name and the personable demeanor he always seemed to have. That was impressive to me, for back in those days the AFC had about 500 personnel across the state, and that was Mr. Moody's simple way of remembering who we were.

Gerald Steeley, Retired AFC Employee –

I remember Mr. Moody telling us one time in a District Foresters meeting that he didn't want us to feel comfortable in our jobs. I think the message there was that we should never become complacent but should be constantly striving to better the Alabama Forestry Commission.

I admired and respected Mr. Moody for all he did for the Alabama Forestry Commission. The AFC may never see a State Forester and Assistant State Forester team as good as Mr. Moody and Mr. Pigg. It was an honor to be part of their team.

Kim Nix, Former AFC Employee –

One of the things I remember is he would walk the halls at the state office late on Friday afternoons and stop briefly to say hello if you were in your office. Yes, he was checking up on who was working until 5 p.m. on Friday afternoons, but he was also letting us know that he was working as well. He was leading by example, and that's always stuck with me. I tried to have the same philosophy when I got to be a supervisor.

Steve Nix, Retired AFC Employee –

I was standing in line at the Faulkner University/Atlanta Highway Taco Bell talking to a total stranger about his TREASURE Forest near Mathews. I turned around to see a little, stooped man wearing a baseball cap behind us in line. Who else but BILL MOODY! We had a great laugh when I introduced Mr. Moody as the creator of 'his' TREASURE Forest program. He corrected me to explain it was 'ours.'

Tony Avery, Retired AFC Employee –

I think Mr. Moody liked to visit counties. So, he came to Marion County one day. We had a previous county supervisor that had retired and lived not far from our office. Mr. Moody dropped by his house along with a couple of AFC employees for a visit. I think he thought that was the best thing he had done that day. Mr. Moody loved to affect people in a positive way. He was great visionary, motivational leader, and a great person.

Tim Albritton, Former AFC Employee –

Mr. Moody had a presence about him that conveyed confidence. You just knew you were in the presence of a leader. Some people might say that's because I was young, in my late 20s and early 30s when I was working for him at the AFC. There may be some truth to that, but years later when I was in my 50s, I ran into him at Publix grocery store one day. I still had that same feeling as we talked for a while in the aisle.

Mr. Moody left a positive impact on me. It's hard to explain, but I want to reach higher in life because of his inspiration. There are not many people these days that do that to you.

Johnnie Everitt, Current AFC Employee –

When I graduated from Auburn there was a reception held at the forestry school. Mr. Moody was in attendance, and my mother introduced us. I'll never forget her asking him to give me a job. I was a little embarrassed. However, he was very nice and talked with us for a couple of minutes.

A couple of years later I went to work for the Alabama Forestry Commission. Soon after coming on board District 9 Forester, Gerald Steeley, introduced me to Mr. Moody at the state office. When he saw me, he brought up the conversation we had at graduation and welcomed me to the Commission. I was impressed by how he remembered such a small conversation. He was a people person.

Gary Faulkner, Current AFC Employee –

Mr. Moody genuinely provided a professional pathway for me and my family as a career within and outside the forestry community. The opportunities he provided for advancement were likened as service missionaries – to go out and preach the gospel of forestry wherever life situated our careers over time. He was fond of pushing new ideas and advancements for achieving higher levels of accomplishments. Mr. Moody loaned me to another state agency where I eventually settled in another rewarding career.

The character and values he instilled while at the Alabama Forestry Commission carried forward to others. His vision, legacy, and influences were second to none for the state and nation. He had a tough 'row to hoe' operating such a large agency under his tenure. Mr. Moody's leadership demanded professional attitudes and positive results – and he received them. I liken him to bringing a rock to a sword fight. I believe there is a story in the scriptures about this – and we all know who won that fight! Above all, he was a good and decent man who was a unique and valued asset to our state. The good Lord made only one Mr. Moody. His name will be etched and synonymous with Alabama's forest legacy like none other.

Jerry Dwyer, Retired AFC Employee –

Mr. Moody was truly an inspiration to me. He supported my efforts as well as several others in achieving a degree in forestry. His establishment of the Forestry Commission's Cooperative Education Program developed future leaders within the forestry community. The majority of participants eventually served in both upper level positions internally as well as outside the Forestry Commission. I personally benefitted from this program and achieved success beyond my beliefs.

He always expected much of us as Forestry Commission employees and we always tried our darnedest to make sure he wasn't disappointed. He led us with firmness while instilling the self-confidence to know we could accomplish anything. His visionary leadership, dedication to the Forestry Commission, its employees, forest landowners, and the citizens of Alabama was/is truly inspirational.

Sam Gravel, Retired AFC Employee –

On a district visit by Bill Moody, as we rode along, he asked me if I was reading any interesting books. I started describing the book entitled *The Mind of a Manager*

and the Soul of a Leader. Bill listened and then quickly asked, "Which one should be boss?"

Everyone recognized that Bill was the soul of the Alabama Forestry Commission and that he was very good at being the leader of the organization.

Jim Hyland, Retired AFC Employee –

The AFC had sent in a Southern Pine Beetle project to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for $2 million to try new things such as landowner assistance and $10 per cord incentive for cutting spots. One of the headhunters from the USFS (that was not well liked by the state pest managers) came to Montgomery to tell Mr. Moody whether they were going to approve the project or not. He would not reveal to me what the outcome was, but asked if he could meet with Mr. Moody. I told him he was a busy man; just say his howdy-dos and get straight to the point.

We went in and when the Fed started to talk about the project, Mr. Moody leaned forward and said, "If you are going tell me we are not going to get all our money, you can get the hell out of here now!" The look on the Fed's face was priceless. Mr. Moody reared back in his chair and roared laughing, and then told him, "Give the details to Jim and he can handle whatever you want."

Another reason I respected Mr. Moody was that he let his men do their jobs and backed them up.

Linda Parten Tillery, Former AFC Employee –

During the 16 years I worked for the Alabama Forestry Commission, I was involved heavily with the Forest Festivals at the Coliseum in Montgomery. Randy Allen and I were tasked to place posters in stores advertising the FREE EVENT. Well, cars were short that day, so I drove Mr. Moody's car. When Randy and I finished up on the Southern Boulevard, I backed up and landed on a 36" pipe sticking out of the pavement, and pinstriped Mr. Moody's car as I drove off. Randy and I made a pact not to mention this to ANYONE. And of course, the next day I ran into Mr. Moody in the hall and he commented to me that although cars were still in strong demand, I wouldn't be using his. He just grinned that grin of his and kept walking. I turned RED and flew up the stairs to my office.

Harold Cleveland, Retired AFC Employee –

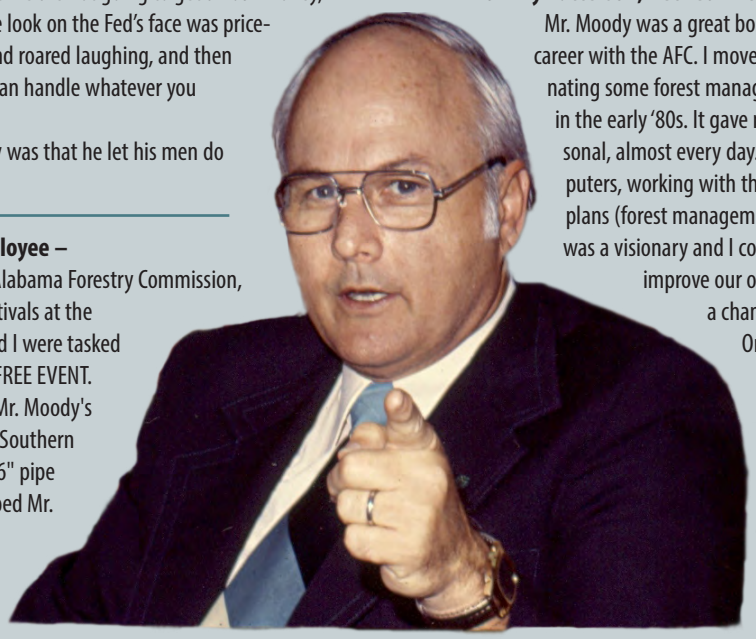
I don't know where this quote came from, but it fits Mr. Moody to a tee: "He had a seemingly innate ability to deal with people in a firm, yet considerate manner, which instilled in them a sense of pride in the quality of their work and inspired them to their maximum effectiveness."

Barton Williams, Retired AFC Employee –

Needless to say, the field employees of the new Alabama Forestry Commission were very excited by all the changes. Rumors were flying about the new State Forester Bill Moody, such as, he is a real hot shot forester from Florida. He went on a round-robin tour of the state, meeting with two districts at a time. He told us he was holding these meetings so we could learn things about each other. He said, "I have already learned a lot about the Forestry Commission employees and still learning more. I have observed that the employees consistently do one thing very well. They seem to be excellent 'bitchers.'" Everyone hee-hawed and grinned. He continued, "In fact, I have never heard so much 'bitching' in my entire life!" More laughter. Then he said, "I absolutely hate bitching and bitchers!!!" You could hear a pin drop. Doug Smith and I looked at each other with an "Oh Hell" look. At that point we realized that nothing was the same and we were in for a ride. And what a ride it was until Bill Moody retired as State Forester. A ride that Six Flags would never be able to duplicate!

I was attending a very large conference of influential people from the forestry profession, agriculture, and the political arena. State Forester Bill Moody gave a speech from the heart, on his frustrations with the ever-increasing sniping towards the practice of forestry and agriculture. Investigative reporters, environmental groups, and Washington D.C.'s liberal interpretations of environmental laws were taking a toll on property owner rights, handcuffing landowners and industry in the practice of forestry and agriculture. He told the group that he kept hearing things such as, "Forestry and agriculture need to be 'more open minded.'" He went on to say, "I am not against being open minded. I have always considered myself to be an open-minded person. However, I feel you can become so open minded that eventually your brains will fall out!" That quote resonated with the audience and has been one that I have always remembered. It applied to the situation back then and still applies for me to our current national compromises and conflicts.

Tommy Patterson, Retired AFC Employee –



Mr. Moody was a great boss, leader, and mentor to me during his career with the AFC. I moved from being a county forester to coordinating some forest management programs in the AFC State Office in the early '80s. It gave me a chance to see him, up close and personal, almost every day. I got interested in the abilities of computers, working with the TVA Forestry Department on WRAP plans (forest management plans for landowners). Mr. Moody was a visionary and I convinced him that these machines could improve our organization in many ways. He finally took a chance and bought 11 desktop computers. One for me and one for each district.

Things grew quickly from there as we started developing TREASURE Forest Plans, using word processing, spreadsheets, and creating fire reporting programs. I finally went into Mr. Moody's office one day and discussed the need for someone to do forestry computer development full time. I must have caught him at a weak moment as he agreed and thought I would be a good person to do that. I think I got more than I bargained for! As time went on, Mr. Moody would stop by my office to check on the progress of various tasks. His standard line to me was, "Alright Patterson, I want to be able to press one key on that computer and know about all the fires we had yesterday." It took us a while, but we finally got there. Mr. Moody allowed us to stay on the cutting edge of technology for many years.

Phearthur Moore, Retired AFC Employee –

One of the things Mr. Moody did was to go to as many funerals affecting Forestry Commission employees as possible. While en route to these services, Mr. Moody would often ask me about the forestry associate's family members. He wanted to know how many children they had, and any other information he could get about the family. He would make notes for himself and in a pinch would jot the information down in the palm of his left hand to serve as a reminder. When he saw the employee, he would use their name when greeting them and ask about their children or mention some other topic he knew was of importance to that employee. He said he wanted "our people," as he put it, to know that he cared about them and their family. He taught me that the ministry of presence was very important and that you should show up when people were dealing with the passing of a loved one.

Mr. Moody encouraged me to attend Auburn University to earn my forestry degree. After he retired from the Forestry Commission, I sent him a card thanking him for all he had done to help me and my family. I offered praise for the great job he had done in promoting forestry in the State of Alabama. He then sent me a card, and in it he said "We" did a good job of promoting forestry in the state. He was not concerned

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Alabama's Bio Diversity

Smith Lake Dam
Photo by Alabama Power

By Ray Metzler
Certified Wildlife Biologist, Threatened & Endangered Species Specialist
Alabama Forestry Commission

In terms of overall species richness, Alabama is the fifth most biologically diverse state in the United States. California, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico are the top four biologically diverse states but also have two to five times more land mass than Alabama. The southeastern United States is the region of the country with the highest aquatic biodiversity, and Alabama is the state with the greatest aquatic species richness. Alabama owes its biodiversity to several factors including, but not limited to, geologic variation, location on the planet (climate), and abundant water resources.

Alabama's 23 million acres of forest land ranks third highest of the lower 48 continental states. These forests deliver critical ecosystem services that benefit our planet and daily lives. Our forests 'filter' our water supply, provide oxygen to breath, sequester carbon, and control erosion in a manner that maintains ecosystem functionality. These services would otherwise be quite costly and could negatively impact Alabama's economy and quality of life.

There are approximately 4,000 species of plants in Alabama, including nearly 200 native tree species associated with 63 distinct terrestrial ecological systems. Of those 63 systems, 56 are forested to some degree. Ecosystems provide better quality services when their flora and fauna are intact. Declines in biodiversity, especially species that play significant roles in ecosystem functionality, not only reduce the ability of our ecosystems to provide the current level of services, but also threaten our economy and human life.

Photo by Alan Cressler

Few, if any, of our state's terrestrial and aquatic systems have not been impacted by human activities. Aquatic systems in Alabama have been negatively impacted to a greater degree than terrestrial systems, as evidenced by the larger number of species currently considered as a species of greatest conservation need in those systems. These impacts to our aquatic systems have occurred over the past century and were caused primarily by the construction of impoundments and sedimentation. Destruction of shoal habitat by impoundments and channelization of our rivers has been a major cause of population decline in mollusks specifically. Many aquatic species cannot survive long periods of elevated

Photo by Alan Cressler

*(**Above**) North Alabama, along with southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia, are home to a large number of caves in karst formations - limestone regions with sinks, springs, underground streams, tunnels, and caverns. Five caves located in the Huntsville area are home to a unique invertebrate known as the Alabama cave shrimp, while the Tennessee cave salamander enjoys a much wider distribution in several states.*

*(**Left**) Alabama's rivers and streams changed significantly during the first half of the 20th century as a result of many factors including the demand for clean, renewable electricity by a growing population. Whether large or small, damming of rivers and streams negatively impacts some aquatic species by limiting movement and creating a reservoir where a free-flowing environment previously existed. Many of the larger reservoirs not only provide power for the surrounding areas, but also drinking water, wildlife habitat, flood control, and more. The need for electricity will always be there, so keys for the future will be to balance the environmental impacts with the human needs such as recreation, electricity, and economic development.*

temperatures or heavy siltation, highlighting the importance of restoring and maintaining forested buffers along streams. Compliance with Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry has been very high during the past few decades. Continued compliance is critical but is only one of many action items throughout society to address continued improvement in our stream and riparian habitats.

Since settlement of our state and statehood in 1819, Alabama's forested systems have experienced pressures including fragmentation, conversion, invasive species, and a reduction in fire frequency. Mechanization of agriculture, modern silviculture, and urbanization have expedited the fragmentation process during the past century. A reduction in fire frequency due to increased risks associated with urbanization and smoke management have changed the landscape, especially in the lower coastal plain where longleaf pine was once the dominant overstory tree species. Invasive species such as cogongrass and privet have become a dominant component of our forest understory, especially in unmanaged systems.

From the mountains to the beaches, Alabama is still a very diverse state, but pressures on our terrestrial and aquatic systems place species at risk as evidenced by the increase in the number of 'Species of Greatest Conservation Need' and candidate species being petitioned for protection under the Endangered Species Act. A tremendous amount of work is being done in Alabama to protect our biodiversity and species richness while maintaining ecological functionality of our aquatic and terrestrial systems. The future of the world in which we live may depend on the success of our ongoing efforts.

Photo by USFWS

*(**Above**) The Mobile-Tensaw River delta is the second largest river delta in the contiguous United States. The delta has a variety of habitats and is home to 126 species of fish, 46 mammals, 69 reptiles, 30 amphibians, and at least 300 species of birds. The delta's freshwaters empty into Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Alabama's shorelines create many miles of habitat for a variety of shorebirds including the reddish egret and the red knot, which has the longest migration of any species (Arctic tundra to the tip of South America).*

Conservation Status of Alabama's Native Vertebrates, Selected Invertebrates, and Plants*

*Alabama ranks third behind California and Hawaii in the number of animal species protected as threatened (**T**) or endangered (**E**) under the Endangered Species Act.*

Taxa	Total Species	Extinct	Species of Greatest Conservation Need			Federally listed (T or E)
			Extirpated	Priority 1	Priority 2	
Mammals	68	0	4	11	12	7
Birds	256	3	2	8	19	5
Reptiles	115	0	0	13	15	9
Amphibians	79	0	0	10	9	3
Fishes	347	2	8	33	22	17
Mussels	182	24	25	53	22	53
Freshwater Snails	203	37	4	25	23	12
Crayfishes	97	0	0	13	31	0
Other	1,000s	?	1	3	0	2
Plants	≈ 4,000					23
Total		66	44	169	153	131

** Table updated and revised from Alabama's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025*

COMMON DIEBACK DISEASES

of Cedars, Junipers, and Leyland Cypress

By Robert Maddox, Morgan County Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

There are three fungal-incited canker and dieback diseases that are common among southern cedars, cypress, and junipers. The warm and wet conditions of the typical southern climate are favorable to increased fungal activity and subsequent infection. Poor establishment planting or wounds create stress factors that contribute to the tree becoming infected.

Proper Planting

Most trees in the cypress family are generally shallow rooted and thickly foliaged. They are sought after for the form they take when mature. A screen effect can be made with a row planting of these trees; however, it will take time. The long-term health of these trees is maintained from a wider spacing, 12 to 20 feet apart in partial to full sunlight. The issue that develops from closer planting is lack of air flow through the foliage. The flow of air serves to dry the interior of the tree, reducing the occurrence of fungi development and overwintering. If more space is allowed between trees when planting, the branches will be less dense in the middle than if the trees were planted closer together. Closer planting will bring a quicker 'screen effect' but also allow less air flow and higher risk of dieback.

Leyland cypress prefers a moist well-drained soil. Consider planting the tree in a raised condition if the site holds water or floods regularly. This is accomplished by planting the root ball at or slightly above ground level, or by planting in a raised bed if the area is extremely wet.

The eastern redcedar is not so particular when it comes to soil drainage. It is adapted to a variety of conditions and resistant to many environmental extremes.

Seiridium Canker

Leyland cypress and certain cultivars of juniper are susceptible to Seiridium canker. Some damage from this dieback disease has also been found on eastern redcedar, but the damage is minimal and risk of mortality low.

The first symptoms appear as browning foliage on the top or side branches. This usually occurs in the spring but can happen any time of year. The dieback can be expected to continue until a sizable portion of the tree is killed.

Entry points for the fungus are through wounds on branch and twig bases. These can result from wind events, ice storms, lightning strikes, mechanical injury, etc. The progression of the disease can be deterred by having adequate airflow for drying of the interior during warm and wet weather. The spread of Seiridium canker is stalled by hot dry weather.

Cankers then develop. These increase in size until they effectively girdle the twig, branch, or main trunk. As a result, the foli-

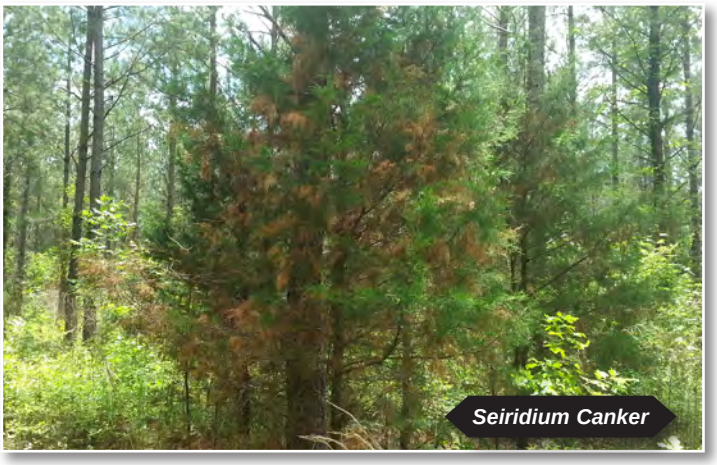

Photo by Robert Maddox, Alabama Forestry Commission

Photo by Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

age dies. These cankers appear as gray discolored areas that ooze resin or sap. This is a key identifier for Seiridium canker, as compared to Bot canker or Phomopsis blight, neither of which ooze resin.

If a tree becomes infected, there are limited options for control. Spread of Seiridium in Christmas tree plantations and landscapes can be slowed by prompt removal of cankered twigs and branches. Sanitizing of pruning tools after removal of infected branches is recommended. Removal of the tree is recommended if cankers appear on the main trunk. Currently no fungicide is recommended for Seiridium canker control on Leyland cypress. There are preventive fungicides that can be applied before spring, but results are mixed and not researched.

Botryoshpaeria (Bot) Canker

Bot canker is similar to Seiridium in the way it first appears. Browning of the foliage on branches is the first visual clue something is wrong. Closer examination shows long sunken cankers on the twigs and branches. Sometimes the surface of the canker is darker than the healthy bark. The discolored dead tissue continues under the bark for inches on either side of the canker. The canker does not exude resin.

The main cause that can bring on a Bot canker problem is an environmental stress. Drought is the primary stressor, along with heat and cold in combination. Proper planting and bedding of the tree is important, along with competition mitigation.

Prompt removal of browning or dying branches is recommended. Prune the affected branch until you reach living wood. Bag and dispose of the infected material or safely burn it.

Currently there are no recommended fungicides for Bot canker control. Site selection, proper planting, and measures to lessen stress on the tree are the only preventatives to infection.

Phomopsis Blight

This disease is similar to Bot canker in that both are fungal-incited canker diseases, and both like warm wet weather. However, the similarities end there, with the two revealing their own unique properties.

Phomopsis is known for affecting junipers, red cedars, and some varieties of cypress. It is found more often in nurseries but occasionally occurs in landscapes. Outbreaks occur in late spring into summer. Affected shoots turn light green at first, then shift to yellow and brown. Discolored foliage is first seen on lower branches, usually on the inside. The girdling cankers are gray in color. The fungus is spread by water contact (driving rain or maintenance watering). New growth is more susceptible to infection than mature foliage. Wet foliage is needed for infection and symptoms to persist.

This example of canker dieback disease is the least lethal to landscape plants, but most destructive to nursery plants. Good airflow for drying of the interior of the tree is key. Affected branches should be pruned about three inches below the dying area. Disinfect pruning tools after use and bag or safely burn the infected material. Fungicides can be used to prevent and control outbreaks of Phomopsis blight.

Photo by Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bugwood.org

Conclusion

If yellow or brown foliage appears on a juniper, cedar, or cypress, inspect the tree for signs of a canker dieback disease. If there are no cankers, it may be self-pruning or some other cause (herbicide overspray, etc.). Reinspect in a week.

If there are cankers, examine for oozing resin. If present, it is Seiridium canker. Resin production may be reduced or non-existent during drought conditions.

If there are cankers but no resin, observe the location of the dieback on the tree. Top to middle of tree, it is likely Bot canker. Low to mid-tree, it is likely Phomopsis blight.

Check the spread of diseased or dead tissue from the canker. If it runs for more than a few inches under the bark, it's likely Bot canker. If there is little dead tissue past the canker, the disease could be Phomopsis.

For further assistance, please contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission or Cooperative Extension office.

Tree Seedling Sources

Successful tree planting not only requires good planning, skillful site preparation, correct handling, and proper planting, but it also helps to have a tree seedling source. To assist in this process, a list of southeastern tree seedling nurseries that serve Alabama landowners is presented here. This alphabetical listing is in no way an endorsement of any particular company or product. The Alabama Forestry Commission also maintains a list of tree seedling nurseries on the agency website at www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Management/Seedling_Vendors.aspx. Qualified tree seedling vendors that market to Alabama landowners and wish to be added to this list should call (334) 240-9334.

Advantage Forestry
Contact: Peter Frankowski
Address: 408 N Commissioners Ave | Demopolis, AL 36732
Phone: (334) 341-2059
Email: adv.forestry@gmail.com
Website: containerpines.com

ArborGen - Selma Nursery
Contact: Larry Foster
Address: 264 County Road 888 | Selma, AL 36703
Phone: (800) 222-1280
Email: info@arborgen.com
Website: www.arborgen.com

ArborGen - Bellville Nursery
Contact: Steve Cantrell
Address: PO Box 56 | Bellville, GA 30414
Phone: (877) 833-4760
Email: info@arborgen.com
Website: www.arborgen.com

ArborGen - Shellman Nursery
Contact: Jim Crittenden
Address: 78 Supertree Lane | Shellman, GA 39886
Phone: (800) 554-6550
Email: info@arborgen.com
Website: arborgen.com

ArborGen - Blenheim Nursery
Contact: Gary Nelson
Address: 5594 Hwy 38 South | Blenheim, SC 29516
Phone: (800) 222-1290
Email: info@arborgen.com
Website: arborgen.com

Baucum Nursery
Contact: Krys Newnum
Address: 1402 Hwy 391 N | North Little Rock, AR 72117
Phone: (501) 907-2485 or 2486
Website: agriculture.arkansas.gov/order-seedlings

Bell Brothers, Inc.
Contact: Danny or Gary Bell
Address: 5819 Hwy 169 | South Claxton, GA 30417
Phone: (912) 739-2273

Blanton's Longleaf Container Nursery
Contact: CJ, Jay, or Jason Blanton
Address: 1091 NE Daylily Ave | Madison, FL 32340
Phone: (850) 973-2967
Email: BIGJMB1@vol.com

Buckeye Nursery, Inc.
Contact: Clinton Keen
Address: 1490 Buckeye Nursery Rd | Perry, FL 32347
Phone: (805) 838-2680

Chestnut Hill Nursery & Orchards
Address: 15105 NW 94th Ave | Alachua, FL 32615
Phone: (800) 669-2067
Email: chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com
Website: www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com

Chiappini Farm
Address: 150 Chiappini Farm Rd | Hawthorne, FL 32640
Phone: (352) 475-5413
Website: chiappinifarm.com

Deep South Growers
Contact: Rick or Candi Reed
Address: 1535 Harvey Vickers Rd | Douglas, GA 31534
Phone: (912) 384-5450
Email: careed@hotmail.com

Delta View Nursery
Address: 659 Burdette Rd | Leland, MS 38756
Phone: (800) 748-9018
Email: hardwoods@tecinfo.com

Flatwood Natives
Address: 905 Bennett Rd | Ona, FL 33865
Phone: (863) 767-0446
Website: www.flatwoodnatives.com

Florida Forest Service
Contact: Andrews Nursery - Steve Gilly
Address: 9850 NW 42nd Ct | Chiefland, FL 32626
Phone: (352) 493-6096
Email: steven.gilly@freshfromflorida.com
Website: fdacs.gov

Georgia Forestry Commission - Flint River Nursery
Contact: Jeff Fields
Address: 9850 River Rd | Byromville, GA 31007
Phone: (229) 268-7308
Website: www.gaseedlings.org

IFCO Seedlings - Jesup Nursery
Contact: Mike Prime
Address: 1689 Nursery Rd | Jesup, GA 31546
Phone: (912) 427-4871
Website: internationalforest.co

IFCO Seedlings - Moultrie Nursery
Contact: Clark Duncan
Address: 580 Mac Massey Rd | Doerun, GA 31744
Phone: (800) 633-4506
Website: internationalforest.co

IFCO Seedlings - Pine Hill Nursery
Contact: Dewayne Hargreaves
Address: 3890 Hwy 28 E | Camden, AL 36726
Phone: (334) 682-9882
Website: internationalforest.co

IFCO Seedlings - Shubuta Nursery
Contact: Tom Anderson
Address: 1444 Shubuta-Eucutta Rd | Shubuta, MS 39360
Phone: (601) 687-5766
Website: internationalforest.co

IFCO Seedlings - White City Nursery
Contact: Warren Bryant
Address: 707 County Road 20 | Verbena, AL 36091
Phone: (334) 365-2488
Website: internationalforest.co

K & L Forest Nursery, Inc.
Contact: Ken Singleton
Address: 3782 Hwy 41 S | Buena Vista, GA 31803
Phone: (229) 649-6572
Email: danlforestnursery@gmail.com

LTF Greenhouses, LLC.
Contact: Neal Kicklighter
Address: 195 Ty Ty Omega Rd | Tifton, GA 31793
Phone: (229) 382-4454
Email: neal@ltfgreenhouses.com
Website: lewistaylorfarms.com

Meeks' Farms & Nursery, Inc.
Contact: Mickey Parker (850) 572-3932
Address: 187 Flanders Rd | Kite, GA 31049
Phone: (877) 809-1737
Email: steve@meeksfarms-nurserys.com
Website: www.meeksfarms-nurserys.com

Native Forest Nursery
Address: 11306 Hwy 411 S | Chatsworth, GA 30705
Phone: (706) 483-3397
Email: sales@nativeforestnursery.com
Website: www.nativeforestnursery.com

North Carolina Forest Service
Contact: Claridge Nursery
Address: 762 Claridge Nursery Rd | Goldsboro, NC 27530
Phone: (888) 628-7337
Email: seedlingcoordinator@ncagr.gov
Website: www.buynctrees.com

PRT Growing Services
Contact: Flynn Miller
Address: 4165 Ross Rd | Atmore, AL 36502
Phone: (251) 368-4339
Email: flynn.miller@prt.com
Website: www.prt.com

Ray Bracken Nursery, Inc.
Contact: Michael Phillips
Address: 460 Woodville Road | Pelzer, SC 29669
Phone: (864) 277-1990
Email: sales@raybracken.com
Website: raybracken.com

Rayonier Seedling Division
Contact: Elberta Nursery
Address: 29650 Comstock Rd | Elberta, AL 36530
Phone: (251) 986-5210
Email: seedlings@rayonier.com
Website: rayonierseedlings.com

Rutland Forest Nursery
Contact: Terrell Rutland
Address: 502 Owen Medford Rd | Lenox, GA 31637
Phone: (229) 382-5504

Sanctuary Timber & Wildlife
Contact: Skye Fuller
Address: 7509 Lee Road 146 | Opelika, AL 36804
Phone: (334) 782-2360

South Carolina Forestry Commission
Contact: Taylor Nursery
Address: 53 Girl Scout Camp Rd | Trenton, SC 29847
Phone: (803) 275-3578
Website: www.state.sc.us/forest/nur.htm

Superior Trees, Inc.
Contact: Alan Webb
Address: 12493 E US Hwy 90 | Lee, FL 32059
Phone: (850) 971-5159
Email: superiortrees@centurylink.net
Website: superiortrees.net

Tennessee Department Of Agriculture
Contact: Division of Forestry - East Tennessee Nursery
Address: 9063 Hwy 411 | Delano, TN 37325
Phone: (877) 868-7337
Email: plant.tntrees@tn.gov
Website: agriculture.tn.gov/OnlineSeedlingSales

The Liner Tree Farm, Inc.
Contact: David Biggar
Address: 4020 Packard Ave | St. Cloud , FL 34772
Phone: (800) 330-1484
Website: linersource.com

The Wildlife Group
Contact: Allen Deese
Address: 1245 County Road 53 | Tuskegee, AL 36083
Phone: (800) 221-9703
Website: www.wildlifegroup.com

Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
Contact: Frank Wadsworth
Address: 3071 Dexter Rd | Wetumpka, AL 36092
Phone: (334) 567-6308
Email: frank@wadsworthchristmastrees.com
Website: wadsworthchristmastrees.com

Warren County Nursery
Contact: Jeffery Hobbs
Address: 6492 Beersheba Hwy | McMinnville, TN 37110
Phone: (931) 668-8941
Email: info@warrencountynursery.com
Website: www.warrencountynursery.com

Weyerhaeuser - Magnolia Nursery
Contact: Kevin Richardson
Address: 2960 Columbia 11 E | Magnolia, AR 71753
Phone: (870) 234-3537

Weyerhaeuser - Pearl River Nursery
Contact: Ken McQuage
Address: 1032 Camp Lane | Hazlehurst, MS 39083
Phone: (601) 894-1072
Email: tammy.ladd@weyerhaeuser.com
Website: plumcreek.com

Weyerhaeuser - Quail Ridge Nursery
Contact: Bruce Francis
Address: 169 Weyerhaeuser Rd | Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (800) 634-8975

Whitfield Farms & Nursery
Contact: F. Bennett Whitfield
Address: 2497 Lambs Bridge Rd | Twin City, GA 30471
Phone: (912) 515-4103
Email: whitfieldfarms@live.com
Website: whitfieldpineseedlings.com

Zellner Farms
Contact: Bob Zellner
Address: 385 Zellner Rd | Culloden, GA 31016
Phone: (770) 283-7187
Email: bzellner@zellnerfarms.com

Preserving the History of the Alabama Forestry Commission

By Thomas Kaufmann, Architectural Historian and Preservationist

As the State of Alabama turns 200 years old this year, there is much about our state to celebrate, cherish, and appreciate. The list of all the many things which have made our commonwealth so special to us for the past two centuries would be exhaustive. However, placed very high on this list would be the conservation of our natural resources, especially our forests, cared for by the outstanding work of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) for practically the past 100 years.

Naturally, when such a great agency is working so hard to keep our state safe from the threat of wildfire, managing forested lands, and doing educational outreach, it can be so very easy to lose sight of the need to record or capture the very history of the agency. Days go by . . . days become weeks . . . weeks become months . . . months become years . . . years become decades, and before you know it, the mark is almost a century.

In the purest sense of when the agency was formed, the AFC's Centennial would officially be the year '1924.' This is not to say that no history has been documented – not at all – there is much to glean from in the archival records kept by the Alabama Department of Archives and History in the way of the annual reports, administrative records, fire protection files, and more. This is very commendable on the foresight of the past and present leadership and commissioners of the AFC. Still, there are stories – many stories to tell – from the field, from those who have served long ago, perhaps not so long ago, fairly recently, or even those presently serving – indeed, history is being made every day! What has happened yesterday as well as what happens today is important to know, and either is or will become the historic narrative.

Naturally, it is impossible to capture 'all history,' and as well, recording history is a highly subjective endeavor. The task may best be undertaken by those who are naturally interested in the subject of history because they will know the right questions to ask; where to look; how to find, record, and document – in a meaningful way, in a permanent way – so that others who follow may pick up the trail and continue for the next generation, and so on. However, this is not to say that such an endeavor is limited to the perceived 'historian' in the ranks, but is something in which many may participate, even with limited or no experience.

Concerning gathering and recording the history of the Alabama Forestry Commission, what might be most helpful are the following guidelines:

Observation – Begin looking at everything through a fresh pair of eyes. Ask yourself, what would be important for future generations to know about the AFC in 100 years or more from now? Administrative/Oral History/Equipment/Structures/Events? Everyday routines, however mundane? Uniforms? Vehicles? Other?

Identification – What is deemed important to record, document, conserve, or 'preserve?' This step includes processing and identifying/prioritizing items and elements from the body of records/artifacts/documentation collected.

Verification – One of the most critical aspects of research lies in verifying and authenticating historic time periods, dates, objects, manufacturers, etc. This process can take time and patience, as all good endeavors do.

Conservation/Documentation – THE MOST IMPORTANT guideline . . . All documents, artifacts, or structures perceived to have historic value – regardless of condition – should be conserved or preserved. Every effort should be made to save history when it is observed, identified, and verified. Assistance in documentation may be requested from other state agencies or consultants with special expertise and trained personnel.

Narration/Exhibition – The act of sharing or displaying stories – from the archival collection of history, the historic artifact, or the historic building – may take the form of a written report, photograph(s), filming, or all of the aforementioned.

In considering documenting the very important and critical history of the Alabama Forestry Commission, urgent thought must be given to chronicling the experiences of senior and

(Continued on page 30)

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Preserving the History of the Alabama Forestry Commission

(Continued from page 28)

retired Forestry Commission employees, whether administrative or field personnel. Is there anyone you can think of, whom you could go to, or even invite to your office over coffee, to share memories and experiences from their lifetime of service to the AFC, while either filming or recording at the same time? Some of these fine individuals may not be with us much longer, so the sooner the better, as the saying goes, in reaching out to them.

Think of the stories that are waiting to be told, that would not only be interesting to know, but also likely be very educational for others. They should be set down for present and future researchers to mine, uncover, and display for telling the story of the agency, and the 'greater good' that has been done for the citizens of Alabama for the past century, and will hopefully continue for the next century and beyond. As well, when you find the dusty, coffee-stained, and scribbled-over paper records, think of them as a portal in which one can see how the agency worked, what people were like, how much they were paid at the time to do their job, especially administrative directives – such as building roads, ordering lookouts, installing telephones, etc.

Additionally, if you have old vehicles, equipment, or machines – even rusted – give these items consideration for future restoration and display, if possible. Even if it's not currently in the budget, see if you can save antique artifacts for now, then look for ways to preserve and showcase them in the future to tell the story.

Any remnant or artifact from the days of the lookout tower system of fire protection would be valuable to save in such a way. Any forestry-built structure is of tremendous historical significance, and deserves to be preserved, especially lookout towers, Quonset Huts, communication towers, vehicle repair buildings, storage buildings, etc. Any remnant of a former structure is also important. For example, at the Simerly Lookout Tower site in Baldwin County, there is an old concrete pad which was believed to be the site of the previous lookout tower 'pole' – which was 80' in height. Preserving this pad ensures preserving the fire protection history of the Simerly Tower ranger station and site, now identified by the 100' Aermotor Lookout Tower, a landmark of the inland Gulf area.

Forest Ranger John Burns sighting alidade, Pope Fire Tower, Colbert County, Maude, AL, April 4, 1941

Might there be a future comprehensive 'state forestry museum' in the AFC's future that could exhibit the history of the agency in a unique and novel way? Why not? However, the history of the Alabama Forestry Commission must be collected before it can be developed into a museum narrative, or other form of narrative. Is this a daunting task to undertake? Of course, if only a few people were interested to do it. While it may not be possible to capture all of the AFC's history since it's inception as a state agency, it is feasible to recover and capture quite a respectable amount of information that could more than adequately chronicle the historical narrative of the agency, both for now and future generations. And that would be a tremendous success.

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Memories of Mr. Moody

(Continued from page 21)

about who got the credit, he just wanted to get the job done. Mr. Moody was an amazing man, and my life was positively affected by my association with him.

Anita Benton, Retired AFC Employee –

Working under the leadership of Mr. Moody was an awesome experience, and I had as much respect for him as I ever had for anyone in my life. He always exhibited respect for the people who worked at the Alabama Forestry Commission; he expected associates to perform to their full potential, but he was always quick to show his appreciation for a job well done. Often, he believed in me when I did not believe in myself or my ability to get a job done. He also did not hesitate to let you know that he was disappointed with some job you did that did not meet his expectations, or some trait or action he witnessed that was not a compliment to the AFC.

It was my pleasure and good fortune to work for an agency with a strong leader like Mr. Moody, and his belief in me certainly helped make me the person I am today. I will be forever grateful for that opportunity.

Spencer Ryan, Director, Alabama PALS (People Against A Littered State) –

Mr. Moody was one of the most innovative and forward-thinking individuals that I have ever had the pleasure to meet. He cared about people and he cared about the cause. He was sincere in his dedication to the Alabama Forestry Commission and Alabama PALS, and so many organizations flourished under Bill Moody's leadership. I not only appreciate his interest in people personally, but will be forever in debt to Bill Moody.

Derrick Heckman, Retired AFC Employee –

I met Bill Moody and Charles Pigg in 1989 while working for the U.S. Forest Service as an FIA forester out of Starkville, Mississippi. Fast forward to 1991, I was bored with the Forest Service, so I called Montgomery and asked to speak with Bill Moody. He immediately recognized my voice, knew my name, knew where I grew up and my alma mater, Stephen F. Austin. I was impressed at this point since I had only given him my name when we first met. I never did find out how he got the rest of my information; maybe that Texas drawl and cowboy hat was a clue. Anyway, he told me about this great forester position in Jefferson County and asked me to call Bart Williams. I did, and that started my adventure with the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Over the next few years I saw Mr. Moody often and he always took time to speak, ask questions, and as a new employee he made me feel like my opinion was just as important as the 'old-timers.' To this day, I have never forgotten the impact Mr. Moody had, and still has, on my life. May his legacy live on forever in those of us that knew him.

Doug Smith, Retired AFC Employee –

There are several things that I was most impressed about with Bill Moody. One was his interaction with his employees. When he came to the Alabama Forestry Commission, we had just been severed from the Department of Conservation. We had limited equipment, limited personnel, and limited resources of any kind. Some of our county personnel had little formal education and a few had trouble reading. There had been no training and there was no organization and consistency throughout the agency. He immediately began making field trips to the counties. He would walk around the buildings and look at the equipment, even raise the hood and check the oil. But the most important thing he did was talk to and listen to the people in the field. In this, he found out that despite the limited education of some and no real training, they had managed to take worn equipment and tools, then make modifications to them to better do their jobs. He saw how much they had accomplished with nothing, and he recognized an untapped potential that he could develop.

Out of his visits came great things. One, he made the field feel important. He made them want to live up to his standards. He had a real soft spot for them, and he endeared himself to the counties. As we began to get money for equipment, training, and uniforms, they began developing more pride in their work. At one point he decided to have an agency-wide meeting at a large park so that every district could showcase their equipment and personnel. Everyone dressed in their uniforms and we had a drive-by with the trucks and equipment. An announcer on a PA system would recognize the county and tell about their equipment, how they had made this modification to the trailer or change in the plow, etc. It made everyone so proud. He knew how to take people, and by recognizing their good work, make them want to go back and do more. That was one of his greatest strengths.

Another thing that amazed me was his ability to form alliances: Alabama PALS, the organization of the volunteer fire departments, the TREASURE Forest Association, the Urban Forestry Association, and the Forestry Planning Committees, just to name a few. Any time he saw a chance to include someone else to do part of the work or solve a problem he did it. He was just about a genius at doing that, and to see it happen and watch it grow was an amazing journey.

Editor's Note: *Some of these tributes were condensed for the sake of publication space. To read the complete version, visit our website at forestry.alabama.gov; look for "Moody Memorial" under the News section.*

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Plants OF ALABAMA

Purple Pitcher Plant

(*Sarracenia rosea*)

By Fred Nation, Environmental Services, Baldwin County

American pitcher plants are among the world's strangest-looking plants. Seven of the nine southeastern species are native to Alabama, and perhaps the most bizarre is the purple pitcher plant, *Sarracenia rosea*. One humorous local name for this species is "frog's britches!" (It is notable that old references incorrectly identify Alabama populations as *Sarracenia purpurea*.)

The *Sarracenias* are true carnivores, with various ingenious means for catching and holding their prey. Most, including the purple pitcher plant, produce leaves that are modified into conical or vase-like catch tubes. Frequent prey species include love bugs, which are an exotic pest species, originally from Central America.

The prey capture mechanism for *S. rosea* is straightforward: The catch tubes are open to the sky and rain, and they collect water. Stiff hairs direct insects toward the opening, and others prevent them from climbing out after they have fallen into the water-filled death traps.

Purple pitcher plants share the family preferences for acidic, nutrient poor, well-drained, sandy soil, and clean, salt-free water. Their habitats are not as wet as other wetlands, such as swamps and marshes. In fact, to remain healthy, pitcher plant bogs must be dry enough to burn occasionally. Without periodic fires to suppress midstory shrubs and small trees, the ground will become shaded, and the sun-loving (heliophytic) plants will decline and eventually die.

Pitcher plant bogs are declining throughout their ranges. With our rapid population increases, bog habitats are being drained and filled to make the land available for roads and construction. Fortunately, some of these increasingly rare habitats are protected and made available for non-destructive public access. *Sarracenia rosea* is listed by the Alabama Natural Heritage Program as an endangered species.

Photo by Fred Nation

Alabama's *Sarracenia rosea* is surely among the world's most interesting and most beautiful plants. Visits to pitcher plant bogs and other natural areas are photogenic, educational, and they offer good exercise. Kids of all ages love to see and learn about the "plants that eat bugs!"