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Fax: (205) 987-9824
E-Mail: RLL@AFOA.ORG

CAPITAL IDEAS

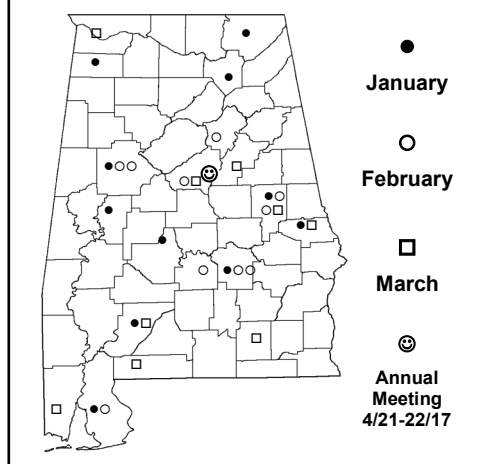
The Newsletter of the Alabama Forest Owners' Association, Inc.

Advocate for the Forest Owner
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P. O. Box 361434
Birmingham, Alabama
35236-1434



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY 2017

January 6-8...Hale County. **Alabama Youth Trappers Education Workshop** in Greensboro passes on the historical aspects of trapping, biological information concerning furbearers and furbearer management, and allows students to learn the proper techniques that include the use of trapping as a sound wildlife management tool. Contact [Mike Sievering](mailto:Mike.Sievering@AFOA.org) at (205) 339-5716.

January 9...Franklin County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Russellville. This workshop will present typical transactions related to the acquisition, management, and disposition of timberland and how those transactions are reported to the IRS. It will consist of a 6 hour daytime class focused on tax preparation and a 2.5 hour evening class focused on forest taxation issues. Fee: \$25 day and \$15 evening. Professionals will pay more for CPE hours. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 10-12...Jasper, Texas. **Longleaf Academy: Herbicides & Longleaf 201** at the Rayburn County Resort, 2376 Wingate Boulevard. Topics will include: rates, timing, active ingredients, application methods, calibration, safety, minimizing damage to longleaf, and more. Fee: \$300; lodging and some meals. Contact [Casey White](mailto:Casey.White@AFOA.org) at (334) 427-1029.

January 12...Marianna, Florida 9 AM - 1:30 PM CT. **Managing Your Forests and Farms For Fish and Wildlife** at the Extension Service Office, 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue. Topics include: Gopher Tortoise Habitat Management, SE American Kestrels, Fire and Wildlife, Wildlife Best Management Practices, and more. Must pre-register by January 9. Lunch provided. Call Billie Clayton at (850) 767-3634.

January 17...Tuscaloosa County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Tuscaloosa. See *January 9 for workshop details*. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 18...Montgomery County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Montgomery. See *January 9 for workshop details*. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 19...Tallapoosa County 9 AM - 4 PM. **Alabama Master Naturalist Course** at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. Fee: \$30. Contact [Shane Harris](mailto:Shane.Harris@AFOA.org) at (256) 825-1050.

January 20 - February 19...Marshall County. **Eagle Awareness Weekends** at Lake Guntersville State Park, 1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville. This program runs each weekend. Watch Bald Eagles glide across the sky and view their nesting sites. Guided interpretive programs held each weekend will help you get in

touch with one of America's greatest symbols. Call Lake Guntersville State Park at (256) 571-5445.

January 20-22...Jackson County. **Alabama Youth Trappers Education Workshop** in Scottsboro. See *January 6-8 for workshop details*. Contact [Mike Sievering](mailto:Mike.Sievering@AFOA.org) at (205) 339-5716.

January 22...Tallahassee, Florida 11 AM - 3 PM ET. **Red Hills Fire Festival** at Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy at 13093 Henry Beadel Drive. The Fire Festival was created to help spread awareness about prescribed fire and healthy forests. The festival will include: live prescribed fire, equipment demonstrations, wagon wide tours, fire talks with experts, kid's activities, food, and music. Contact [Brian Wiebler](mailto:Brian.Wiebler@AFOA.org) at (850) 893-4153x345.

January 23...Lee County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Opelika. See *January 9 for workshop details*. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 25...Online 12 Noon CT. **The People Have Spoken: Using Forest and Firewood National Polling Data to Promote Forest Health**. "This webinar will discuss results from a national survey of citizen attitudes toward invasive species, firewood movement, and forest health." Presenter: Leigh Greenwood, The Nature Conservancy. Landowners, consulting foresters, foresters, land managers, and others are encouraged to participate. Call Bill Hubbard at (706) 340-5070. *Editor's Question: Do you think polls are taken to discover something about the people being polled, or might they be conducted to pitch the position of the poll's sponsor?*

January 25...Online 1 PM CT. **Eastern Forest Pest Update** will include a brief overview of management considerations for each pest, and where landowners can go for additional information. Presenters: Linda Haugen, Plant Pathologist, USDA Forest Service and Noel Schneeberger, Forest Health Program Leader, USDA Forest Service. For more information email [Holli Kuykendall](mailto:Holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov) at holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov.

January 26...Monroe County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Monroe. See *January 9 for workshop details*. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 29-31...Miramar, Florida. **Southeastern Society of American Foresters (SAF) Annual Meeting** at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Theme: "Sustaining Southeastern Forestry - Healthy Forests, Markets, and Policy". Professional foresters and landowners are invited to attend to hear conference speakers address economic, environmental, and policy issues. Fee: \$395; \$115 discount for SAF member. Additional \$60 discount if paid by January 8. Contact [Sharon Dolliver](mailto:Sharon.Dolliver@AFOA.org) at (478) 628-1196.

January 31...Baldwin County. **Timber Tax Workshop** in Fairhope. See *January 9 for workshop details*. To register call (334) 844-5100.

January 31...Dallas & Perry County. **Special Election** for House District 67 seat, vacated when Representative Darrio Melton was elected mayor of Selma. The primary election is January 31, primary runoff will be held April 18, and the general election will be June 27. If no primary or run-off is necessary, the general election will be April 18.

FEBRUARY 2017

February 9...Tallapoosa County 9 AM - 4 PM. **Alabama Master Naturalist Course** at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. Fee: \$30. Contact [Shane Harris](mailto:Shane.Harris@AFOA.org) at (256) 825-1050.

February 9...Montgomery County 10 AM. **Board Meeting of Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust** at a

location to be determined in Montgomery. This meeting will provide an opportunity for any individual who would like to make comments concerning the program. The public is invited to attend this meeting and is urged to submit comments. For more information call (334) 242-3484. *Editor's Note: At some point will Alabama have enough public land that we can be snarled in perennial lawsuits, just like California, the BLM and the USFS?*

February 9...Knoxville, Tennessee 5 PM. **Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) Regional Meeting** at Calhoun's on the River, 400 Neyland Drive. Program will cover Tennessee Forest Products Branding & Hardwood Manufacturing Support. Presenters: Kerry Liven-good and Tim Phelps. Fee: \$25. Contact [Dana Howard](mailto:Dana.Howard@AFOA.org) at (615) 883-3832.

February 9...Shelby County 6 - 8 PM. **Dinner and Discussion** at a location to be determined. Come enjoy dinner and talk about the issues with other forest landowners. Dutch Treat dinner at 6 PM. *Limited seating*. To attend, RSVP [AFOA](mailto:AFOA@AFOA.org) at (205) 987-8811.

February 10...Live Oak, Florida 8:30 - 4 PM ET. **Small Scale Mushroom Production** at Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 Creek 417. This workshop will teach participants how to select, grow, harvest, and market mushrooms appropriate for Florida. Fee: \$143.42; \$15 discount if paid by January 20. Lunch included. Call the Extension Center at (386) 362-1725.

February 11-12...St. Clair County. **Alabama Youth Trappers Education Workshop** in Pell City. See *January 6-8 for workshop details*. Contact [Mike Sievering](mailto:Mike.Sievering@AFOA.org) at (205) 339-5716.

February 14...Montgomery County 5 PM - 7 PM. **Alabama Agribusiness Council Legislative Reception** at RSA Plaza Terrace, 770 Washington Avenue, Montgomery. **Forest Landowners invited to attend**. Great opportunity to meet state legislators interested in forestry & agriculture. Sponsored in part by AFOA along with several other organizations. Contact [Leigha Cauthen](mailto:Leigha.Cauthen@AFOA.org) at (334) 834-4006.

February 15...Online 12 Noon CT. **Integrative Forest Management for Wildlife and Forest Health Webinar**. Topics covered: preferred tree species for wildlife, stand structure, and different management strategies for various wildlife species. Presenter: Dr. Mark McConnell, University of Georgia. Call Bill Hubbard at (706) 340-5070.

February 15-19...Nashville, Tennessee. **Annual National Wild Turkey Federation National Convention** at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. Fee: \$TBD. Call Marsha at 1-800-843-6983.

February 17...Tuscaloosa County 9 AM - 4:45 PM. **Alabama Natural Resources Council Outreach Symposium** at Bryant Conference Center, 240 Paul W Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa. Topics: Prescribed Fire, Wildlife Values in Pine Hardwood Mixed Forest, Log Grading, Importance of Shortleaf Pine, and Managing Rather than High Grading Hardwoods. Fee: \$35; \$5 discount if paid by February 3. Call Alabama Forestry Association at (334) 481-2135.

February 17...Tuscaloosa County 5 - 8 PM. **Alabama Natural Resources Council Awards Banquet** at Bryant Conference Center, 240 Paul W Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa. This awards banquet will recognize the 2016 award recipients of the Alabama Tree Farmer of the Year, the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Award, the Outstanding Alabama Forestry Planning Committees,

(CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

STANDING TIMBER VALUES				
	Hardwood Pulpwood		Oak Sawtimber	
	\$ per ton		\$ per ton	
	3Q15	3Q16	3Q15	3Q16
Alabama				
North	14.88	14.24	46.32	51.98
South	13.67	16.76	44.17	50.28
Average	14.28	15.50	45.25	51.13
Hardwood Pulpwood — 5,800 lbs./cord				
Oak Sawtimber — 17,500 lbs./1000 Board Feet (Doyle)				
3rd Quarter, 2015 (3Q15) and 3rd Quarter, 2016 (3Q16)				
from Timber Mart-South, University of Georgia.				
★For Timber Mart-South subscription details, call (706) 542-4756 or visit www.tmart-south.com M1J 01/2017				

FORESTLAND FOR SALE www.forestland.bz
144 acres in Marengo County about 12 miles north of Thomasville. Hardwoods except about 20 acres of 21 year old planted pine. Plenty of deer and turkey, no pigs. 3/8 mile road frontage with county water, cable, and 3 phase power. \$2100 per acre. Call Mike at (205) 467-9068. (083413)

46 acres in Randolph County. Surveyed, paved road frontage, water & power on property, 4 miles from Walmart, and creek on 2 sides. Some mature hardwoods, thinned natural pines, 3 acres of openings and roads, and deer and turkey. \$116,000. Call Jane at (678) 836-9291. (086348)

STOCK MARKET REPORT			
Company Name		Price Per Share	
		12/15/15	12/15/16
Potlatch (PCH)	REIT	30.56	40.88
Rayonier (RYN)	REIT	22.08	26.58
Weyerhaeuser Co. (WY)	REIT	30.10	30.61
Louisiana Pacific (LPX)		16.57	19.77
WestRock (WRK)		39.30	52.36
Stock Market Report courtesy of Howard Sokol, Raymond James Financial Services, Birmingham, Alabama. Plum Creek merged with Weyerhaeuser on February 19, 2016.			

- Dow-Jones Industrial Average: 19918.88
 - 10-year Treasury yield: 2.550%
 - Dollar: 117.54 Yen; Euro: \$1.0438
 - Oil: \$52.95/barrel
 - Gold: \$1,128.80/troy ounce
- Source: *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/23/16

1 GOOD TIMBER TRACT
(SOLD) BUTLER CO. 473AC. (SOLD) BUTLER CO. 175AC.
HALE CO. 536 AC. U/C TALLAPOOSA CO. 114 AC.



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LUMBER & SHEATHING PRICES		
Source: <i>Random Lengths</i>	12/16/15	12/20/16
MidWeek Market Report		
2 x 4 lumber *	\$270	\$318
7/16" Oriented Strand Board **	\$228	\$282
* 2x4 #2&Btr KD Western S-P-F (mill base price) (per 1000 board feet)		
** 7/16" OSB (North Central) (f.o.b. mill prices) (per 1000 square feet)		

“ESTATE TAX REPEAL to get Renewed Push in New Congress. Republicans Plan to Focus On Repeal While Reducing Efforts to Block Rule [valuation discounts] Affecting Inheritance Levies.” Source: National Federation of Independent Business, 12/16.

“TRUMP BUMP.” Matre Forestry reported that since election day “we have been swamped” with potential woodland buyers.

3-CENT GAS TAX LEGISLATION PROPOSED by the Association of County Commissioners of Alabama to fund a \$1.2 billion bond issue for road construction. “Commissioners from all 67 counties voted to support the tax.” Source: NFIB, 12/13/16

CLASSIFIED SECTION

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS			
JamisonMoneyFarmer PC	Tuscaloosa, AL	(205)345-8440	
Sheldon, Rogers & Bryan, PC	Mobile, AL	(251)345-1252	
Richard, Harris, Ingram and Bozeman, PC		(334)277-8135	

CONSULTING FORESTER - Member: ACF			
C. V. Forestry Services	Clayton, AL	(334)775-8345	
Melisa V. Love, RF, ACF	Opelika	(334)745-7530	
Joseph E. Rigbsby, RF, ACF	Georgiana	(334)265-8200	
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	Mobile, AL	(251)438-4581	
Leh Bass, RF, ACF	Opelika	(334)749-0598	
Eddie Carlson, RF, ACF	Montgomery	(334)270-1291	
McKinley & Lanier Forest Res.	Tuscaloosa	1-800-247-0041	
Arthur C. Dyas, RF, ACF	Mobile, AL	(251)331-4017	
Gibson Forest Mgmt., Inc.	Aliceville, AL	(205)373-6168	
Forestall Company, Inc.	Hoover	1-800-844-0904	
John R. Stivers, RF, ACF, CF	AL & GA	(334)253-2139	
Sizemore & Sizemore, Inc.	Tallassee, AL	(334)283-3611	
J. Pat Autrey	Fort Deposit	(334)227-4239	
F & W Forestry Services	LaFayette	(334)864-9542	
M & W Forestry Consultants	Ozark, AL	(334)432-0467	
Edward F. Travis Co., Inc.	Mobile	(251)633-8885	

CONSULTING FORESTER			
Stewart Forestry Services, Inc.	Decatur, AL	(256)350-9721	
Midsouth Forestry Services, Inc.	Gordo, AL	1-888-228-7531	
Forever Green, Inc.	Leeds, AL	1-800-498-5821	
American Forest Mgmt.	Prattville, AL	(334)358-2345	
Southern Forestry Cnslt.	Enterprise, AL	(334)393-7868	
Eiland Forestry & Real Estate	Trussville	(205)655-0191	
Foster Land Management, LLC	Central Ala.	(205)826-7741	
www.ChesnutForestry.com	Northeast AL	(706)936-0699	
Lang Forestry Consultants, LLC	Selma	(334)375-1065	
Cliff A. Logan & Associates, Inc.	Eutaw, AL	(205)372-9321	

CONSULTING FORESTER - continued			
Graham Forestry & Appraisal	Butler, AL	(205)459-2472	
Richard Crenshaw, RF	Greenville, AL	(334)382-3826	

CONSULTING WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST			
David Runyan		(770)364-9802	
Mark Thomas, CWB	Hoover	(205)733-0477	

INSURANCE	
Hunting Lease & Timberland Liability Group Policies	
Alabama Forest Owners' Association	(205)987-8811

LAND FOR SALE			
Tutt Land Company	www.tuttland.com	(334)534-1315	
Carlson Land Services	Montgomery	(334)270-1291	
Hudson Hines Real Estate	www.hudsonhinesrealestate.com		
American Forest Mgmt.	Prattville, AL	(334)358-2345	
Southeastern Land Group, Inc.		1-866-751-5263	
Farm & Timber Land	AL, GA, TN, FL	www.selandgroup.com	
John Hall & Co.	www.johnhallco.com	(334)270-8400	
National Land Realty	NationalLand.com	(855)NLR-LAND	
Eiland Forestry & Real Estate	Trussville	(205)655-0191	
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	Mobile, AL	(251)438-4581	
Southeastern Realty & Auction Co	John Hall	(334)534-0525	
Longleaf Land Co. LLC	longleafland.com	(334)493-0123	
Mossy Oak Properties - Logan Land Co.		1-877-377-5263	
Target Auction Company	All of	1-800-476-3939	
Real Estate Auctions	SE	www.targetauction.com	
McKeithen Land & Realty, LLC		(251)974-5656	

LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES			
Scotch Land Management, LLC	Fulton, AL	(334)637-2128	
PINE STRAW			
Wanted: Longleaf & Slash / Straw Harvest Prep Services			
CCS Pine Straw	ccspinestraw@yahoo.com	(706)527-0732	
POND MANAGEMENT			
Honey Hole Fisheries	Ralph, AL	(205)333-3665	

POSTED SIGNS	
Alabama Forest Owners' Association	(205)987-8811

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS		
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	Mobile, AL	(251)438-4581
Graham Forestry & Appraisal	Butler, AL	(205)459-2472

TIMBER BUYER	
Blue Ox Forestry, Inc.	(334)875-5100
IndusTREE Timber, Inc.	(334)567-5436
Ronny Wimberley Land & Timber Division	1-877-292-0056
Ideal Timber Company, Inc.	1-888-220-5591

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TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE	
INTERNATIONAL FOREST COMPANY	1-800-633-4506
TECHNOLOGY THAT GROWS CONTAINER SEEDLINGS	
ArborGen, LLC	
Selma:	1-800-222-1280 or (334)872-5452
SUPERIOR TREES, INC.	Lee, FL (850)971-5159
WHITE CITY NURSERY	Autauga Co. (334)365-2488
Pines & Hardwoods for Forestry, Wildlife, Landscapes	

Weyerhaeuser Company	
Premium Pine and Hardwood Seedlings	
1-800-635-0162	
Pinecrest Forest Seedling Nursery - Georgia - (229)314-9445	
Improved Bareroot Pine Seedling pinecrest1@windstream.net	

Whitfield Farms & Nursery - Containerized Longleaf Pine	
Twin City, GA ph. (912) 515-4103	
WhitfieldPineSeedlings.com / whitfieldfarms@live.com	

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COMPLEXITY: “When presenting tax update lectures before CPA groups, I am constantly reminded of the insane complexity of our federal tax system. My advice to tax professionals is to not give quick ‘off-the-cuff’ answers, but rather check the rules and do the research. Often their rebuttal is ‘our clients don’t want us to take the time; they think we should know the entire tax law.’ Not possible!”

“Congress has built a tax system designed to influence economic activity, punish some actions and reward others. And that has grown into a complicated behemoth that challenges the best of us on a daily basis. So when working with your tax professional, recognize that it’s in your best interest to have them digging into the code and regulations to nail down the answer on your tax issues.” Source: *The Progressive Farmer*, 12/16.

TAX REFORM: “Reuters reported that Republicans in the US House of Representatives ‘are accelerating efforts to craft a sweeping tax reform bill for 2017...’” Source: NFIB, 12/20/16. *The last time we looked, Capital Gains Tax on Timber, Forest Management Expenses and Tree Planting Costs were all on the table.*

LOOMING US/CANADA TRADE WAR over softwood lumber imports. “The sale of timber is our top source of income. If our government puts a 30 percent tariff on softwood lumber, we should expect retaliatory tariffs on other forest products including high quality hardwood logs for veneer and furniture, as well as pressure treated lumber where the U.S. has an advantage because of the excellent physical capabilities of southern yellow pine.” Source: *National Woodlands*, Autumn 2016.

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PERHAPS WORSE THAN BEING ACCUSED OF TRAVEL FRAUD, Rep. Ryan Zinke, Trump’s nominee for Secretary of the Interior, has been a supporter of the continuing acquisition of private land by the federal government through the billion dollar Land & Water Conservation Fund. Source: American Land Rights Association, 12/20/16.



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SCOTT PRUITT, Trump’s nominee to head the EPA, “boasts of being ‘a leading advocate against the EPA’s activist agenda.’” Source: *The Washington Post*, 12/8/16.

AND KAZAKHSTAN! Last month we wrote in the cover letter for the December e-newsletter: “Our members live in 44 states, Canada and Washington, DC.” Member Chris Chaplin corrected our omission.

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FOREST PROFILES: CONSULTING FORESTERS by Jessica Nelson



John R. Stivers, based on the Sehoy Plantation in Bullock County, worked for the US Forest Service for twenty-three years before starting his forestry consultancy fourteen years ago. He’s a licensed forester in Alabama and Georgia, and serves landowners in eighteen counties. Many of his clients are institutional landowners, and over the years, Stivers has come to specialize in niche services such as conservation easements, endangered species management, GIS, and estate planning. “It’s just about serving the client,” he says. If John doesn’t know how to do something, he’ll dig in and learn it. Like any forester, he does management plans, tree planting, and timber sales, but he enjoys stretching his limits and learning new things. Although Stivers was a silviculturist for the Forest Service, he also fought thousands of wild fires across thirty-five states. Prescribed fire is still one of his areas of expertise. He teaches the prescribed burn certification class for the Alabama Forestry Commission and is about two years away from a milestone: supervising a million acres of prescribed burn. Stivers says the most important thing for a forester is trust. Landowners have to trust their forester to give them an unbiased look at all the options, and then represent their interests. “At the end of the day, I want my client to be nothing less than ecstatic,” he says. “That’s my metric of success.”



FOREST PROFILES: FOREST PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS by Jessica Nelson

Mark McEntyre, owner of **McEntyre Lumber** in Glencoe, says five generations of his family have worked in the forest industry, beginning with his great-grandfather, who built saws for sawmills. Now Mark’s son, Mark McEntyre, Jr., is the main operator of the saw that cuts logs into railroad crossties, and daughter Jennifer McEntyre Douthit oversees the office. They accept mixed hardwood species, primarily red and white oak, gum, and poplar. They work directly with loggers, who deliver loads as they get them. “We don’t have contracts with the loggers, so we may get twenty loads in a day or two in a week,” she says. McEntyre Lumber purchases 18-foot logs or whole trees, which are cut on a deck saw and debarked. Then they cut the tie from the center of the tree, and boards from the sides are cut into flooring if they’re oak, or pallet wood if gum or poplar. McEntyre does not re-sell logs if they get a more desirable hardwood mixed in. “We’re not a wood yard. If we get a black walnut log, we make a black walnut cross tie,” Jennifer says. It can be a fickle business, and McEntyre Lumber has weathered ups and downs in the market, and seen many other mills come and go. As Mark says, “After this many years in the business, nothing surprises me.”

An “Old” Blueprint For 21st Century Conservation

Brian Seasholes
Policy Analyst, Reason

On America’s privately owned farms, ranches and forests, hidden in plain sight, is an “old” blueprint for a 21st century approach for conserving this country’s land, water and wildlife. A modern approach is badly needed because it is increasingly clear the old approach, which has grown increasingly powerful since the 1960s and is based on command-and-control, primarily from Washington, D.C., but also state capitals, is outmoded and unsustainable due to ignoring or working against six realities.

First, 60% of the U.S. is privately owned and also contains most of the land and water with the highest value for biodiversity and endangered species. Second, conservation is, by definition, a human endeavor that requires active, hand-on management, not letting nature take its course. For example, about 11% of the U.S. is federal forestland, but over the past several decades the federal government’s hands-off management has led to declining forest health and an increase in the size and frequency of catastrophic wildfires. People, first Native Americans and then waves of colonists, have fundamentally shaped America’s landscapes for millennia and will continue to do so. Third, conservation often takes many years if not decades to show results. Fourth, conservation needs to be flexible to respond to ever-changing, site-specific biophysical data and social information—a practice known as adaptive management.

Fifth, private landowners are by far the largest “installed base” of conservationists because there are millions of them, and they are by profession land and resource managers, live on the land 24/7, 365 day a year, have detailed knowledge of their land, possess a strong attachment to their property and are deeply committed to its conservation, and have strong ties to the local community and in-depth information about local social networks—two often-overlooked factors crucial to successful conservation. These dynamics also apply to the landowners who have rights to graze and use water on federal land, which constitutes about 10% of the U.S. land area, adjacent to their property.

Sixth, over the past decade a significant body of scholarly surveys, covering landowners in 19 states, reveal factors that encourage and discourage participation in efforts to conserve endangered species, including that landowners: strongly prefer conservation programs based on incentives and cooperation, instead of penalties and compulsion; possess a strong stewardship ethic; have significant concerns about risks to their property values and livelihoods associated with protecting endangered species; believe they should be compensated for conserving species; and very much prefer to have significant management and decision-making authority if they are involved in a conservation program.

There are two takeaway points from these realities. One, the linchpin for effective conservation is hands-on management by people, especially America’s private landowners and resource users. Two, command-and-control conservation is counterproductive. So it is imperative that those, from public agencies and private organizations, interested in conserving this country’s land, water and wildlife form productive, long-term, sustainable relationships with landowners and owners of rights to resources on federal land.

Yet command-and-control conservation destroys such relationships because it works against and ignores these six realities. Command-and-control conservation—which relies on severe penalties, locking up property and forcing unlucky landowners to bear the costs of providing what is often regarded as a public good—fosters mistrust, resentment and hard feelings.

America’s landowners are increasingly fearful and resentful of government, especially at the federal level, and groups that support command-and-control conservation. “Disgruntled landowners make poor conservationists,” observed law professor David Farrier in an article on U.S. approaches to conservation. As command-and-control conservation has grown more powerful over the past several decades, through laws like the federal Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, its bitter harvest is readily apparent to anyone who visits “flyover” country and talks with owners of working lands. In order to protect their livelihoods and property values from command-and-control conservation, landowners are taking a number of actions with growing frequency, including: refusing to become involved in conservation efforts, especially for endangered species; denying researchers access to their property; and in some cases destroying wildlife habitat, through active management or passive neglect. The realities faced by America’s landowners, and the sad results of command-and-control conservation, are largely hidden from, and unknown to, the urban majority.

Fortunately, there is a successful alternative to the failure of command-and-control conservation, which has a proven, 100-year-plus track record of success and is very popular with America’s landowners. Cooperative extension is the practice of government specialists, primarily through the land grant universities that are in all 50 states, providing technical assistance and cost sharing to help landowners improve the productivity of their land and conserve its natural resources, such as soil, water and wildlife.

Cooperative extension is a remarkably successful approach to conservation because it is 180-degrees away from command-and-control and is based on the radically commonsense idea of gaining landowners’ willing cooperation through the open hand of friendship, not the closed fist of regulation. Cooperative extension is very popular with landowners because it fosters healthy, productive relationships with extension personnel, and it provides them with valuable services, education and often small amounts of funding to implement conservation projects.

Those involved with tangible, boots-on-the-ground conservation, as opposed to the type of armchair conservation advocated by environmental pressure groups and some in government, are well aware of cooperative extension’s superiority. “Cooperative extension is an ideal facilitator for volatile wildlife issues such as endangered species management on private lands,” observes Dwayne Elmore, professor of Natural Resource Ecology and Wildlife Management at Oklahoma State University. “Often, lack of trust in government agencies or fear of Endangered Species Act regulations hinders conservation efforts on these private lands. Extension personnel have close ties to local affected communities and thus can be instrumental in educating landowners regarding options that may be available to them.” Cooperative extension is the model for Utah State University’s innovative Community-Based Conservation Program because it is “a non-regulatory entity,” “has strong ties to the local community and economy,” and “has established solid working relationships with local landowners and agricultural producers,” according to the program’s website.

Unfortunately, the newer, more aggressive and highly invasive type of conservation known as command-and-control is increasingly displacing cooperative extension. If this trend is to be reversed, America needs to realize that its landowners are the key to successful conservation, remove the biggest barrier to effective conservation by abandoning command-and-control, and chart a new course for conservation in the 21st century based on the successful old blueprint called cooperative extension.

This article originally appeared in [The Daily Caller](#), 12/14/16 and is reprinted with permission of the author.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER SERVICE REQUESTS

- ☐ I own 40 or more acres of forestland in Alabama and would like, at no cost to me, an Initial Consultation with a member of the Association of Consulting Foresters.*
- ☐ I am enclosing \$15 for a Timber Buyer List for _____ County.
- ☐ Guidelines for Hunting Lease Agreement
- ☐ Model for a Timber Sale Contract
- ☐ Application for Hunting Lease Liability Insurance Coverage *
- ☐ Application for Timberland Liability Insurance Coverage *
- ☐ _____ 8" x 10" Posted Signs. Enclosed is 45¢ per sign plus \$4.50 S & H ("No Trespassing Hunt Club" - yellow) ("No Trespassing—Period" - orange) circle one
- ☐ AFOA T-Shirt — Short Sleeve, \$11 or Long Sleeve, \$13.50 (call for colors and sizes)
- ☐ AFOA Ball Cap: Pink, Black, Blaze Orange w/Camo, or Denim (circle choice. \$13 each)

* This service is for landowners only. Hunters may only use the hunting lease liability insurance policy under the membership of a landowner.

(Mr.)(Mrs.)(Ms.) _____

Name of Landowner (person, family, partnership, corporation, LLC, etc.)* _____

(Mr.)(Mrs.)(Ms.) _____

Name of Person Representing Landowner (optional)* _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: home _____ Telephone: work _____

Telephone: fax _____ E-Mail Address (we do not share) _____

State(s) and County(ies) Where Forestland Is Located — Please List. _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(1st class postage will cause your newsletter to arrive several days earlier than bulk rate)

1 YEAR

- ☐ Regular Member - Bulk Rate Postage \$16
- ☐ Regular Member - 1st Class Postage \$28
- ☐ Sustaining Member - 1st Class Postage \$160

2 YEARS

- ☐ Regular Member - Bulk Rate Postage \$31
- ☐ Regular Member - 1st Class Postage \$55
- ☐ Sustaining Member - 1st Class Postage \$320

3 YEARS

- ☐ Regular Member - Bulk Rate Postage \$46
- ☐ Regular Member - 1st Class Postage \$82
- ☐ Sustaining Member - 1st Class Postage \$480

SEND APPLICATION & PAYMENT TO:

AFOA, Inc.
P. O. Box 361434
Birmingham, AL 35236

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(CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the Alabama Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, the Alabama Tree Farm Leadership Award, and the Alabama Tree Farm Hard Hat Award Winners. Fee: \$30; \$5 discount if paid by February 3. Call Alabama Forestry Association at (334) 481-2135.

February 17-19...Baldwin County. **Alabama Youth Trappers Education Workshop** in Spanish Fort. See January 6-8 for workshop details. Contact Mike Sievering at (205) 339-5716.

February 19-25...Statewide. **Alabama Arbor Week.** This is a good week to include the family in your tree planting activities. Send AFOA a picture of your children or grandchildren planting a tree!

February 21-23...Garnett, South Carolina. **Longleaf Academy: F201 Fire & Longleaf.** Contact Casey White at (334) 427-1029.

February 23...Tallapoosa County 9 AM - 4 PM. **Alabama Master Naturalist Course** at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. Fee: \$30. Contact Shane Harris at (256) 825-1050.

February 25-26...Lowndes County. **Alabama Adult Trappers Education Workshop** in Lowndesboro at Southern Sportsman Lodge. This workshop passes on the historical aspects of trapping, biological information concerning furbearers and furbearer management, and allows students to learn the proper techniques that include the use of trapping as a sound wildlife management tool. Fee: \$75; Includes one night's lodging and four meals. Contact Mike Sievering at (205) 339-5716.

MARCH 2017

March 1-3...Amelia Island, Florida. **Timberland Investment Conference** at The Ritz-Carlton. Fee: \$1600; \$205 discount if paid by February 24. Contact Bob Izlar at (706) 542-6819.

March 3-5...Shelby County. **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)** at Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake near Columbiana. Participants choose from over 50 courses such as: backyard wildlife, rock climbing, camp cooking, map and compass, camping, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, and many more. Fee \$275; includes most meals, lodging, program materials, and instruction. Contact Marisa Futral at 1-800-245-2740.

March 4...Talladega County 3 PM. **Wild Game Cook-Off** at Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega. Attend the cook-off and enjoy live music, door prizes, youth activities, and sample wild game recipes. Fee: \$TBD; Youth 15 and under free. Call the Alabama Wildlife Federation at 1-800-822-9453.

March 6-7...Coffee County. **Forest-Her: A Workshop for women who love the land** at Coffee County Extension Office, New Brockton. Topics will include: Learn to Read Maps, Non-Timber Forest Products, Marketing Timber, and Forest Measurements. Fee: \$70. Contact Bence Carter at (334) 894-5596.

March 7...Monroe County 6 PM. **Recreational Pond Management** at USDA Service Center, 334 Agriculture Drive, Suite 104, Monroeville. Speaker: PJ Waters. Contact Willie Williams at (251) 575-3477.

March 9...Tallapoosa County 9 AM - 4 PM. **Alabama Master Naturalist Course** at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. Fee: \$30. Contact Shane Harris at (256) 825-1050.

March 13-14...Lee County. **Forest-Her on Fire** at School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn. This workshop will focus on teaching women about Alabama's historic fire regimes and how prescribed fire can and should be used as an effective land management tool. Classroom and field instruction. Weather permitting, attendees will experience a prescribed fire. Fee: \$80; three meals included. Contact Dr. Becky Barlow at (334) 844-1019.

March 14...Mobile County 6 PM. **Recreational Pond Management** at Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Road, N., Mobile. Speaker: PJ Waters. Contact Andrea Mitchell at (251) 574-8445.


March 18...Colbert/Lauderdale County 4 PM. **Wild Game Cook-Off** at a location in the Quad Cities area. Attend the cook-off and enjoy live music, door prizes, youth activities, and sample wild game recipes. Fee: \$TBD. Youth 15 and under free. Call the Alabama Wildlife Federation at 1-800-822-9453.

March 21...Escambia County 6 PM. **Recreational Pond Management** at 175 Ag-Science Drive, Suite D, Brewton. Speaker: PJ Waters. Contact Anthony Wiggins at (251) 867-7660.

March 28-30...Cheraw, South Carolina. **Longleaf Academy: F201 Fire & Longleaf.** Contact Casey White at (334) 427-1029.

March 29...Atlanta, Georgia 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM ET. **Applied Forest Finance** at Georgia Tech Global Learning Center. This class details the step-by-step financial analysis required to answer key investment and forest management questions. Learn how to identify, value, and rank timber and forestry investments. Fee: \$680. Contact Heather Clark at (770) 725-8447.

APRIL 2017


 April 21-22...Shelby County. **AFOA ANNUAL MEETING** headquartered at the Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake. Friday activities (tours, workshop, reception) and Saturday main educational conference. **Make room reservations at 4-H Center: (205) 669-4241.** Meeting details will be posted as they become available on AFOA's web Events Calendar: www.afoa.org/cal/cal.htm#AM170421-22

...

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ENDANGERED SPECIES UPDATE:

- Cost to "save" the only known **jaguar** in the US (there are many of the big cats south of the border): **\$600 million**
- Cost to "save" the **tiger salamander** in Santa Barbara County, California: **\$181 million**

IT'S A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE:

Teaming up with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team agreed to plant one tree for every 20,000 tickets sold and have planted between 90 and 120 trees annually. Source: State Forestry Update, *National Woodlands*, Autumn 2016. In a related note: Hancock Timber Resource Group recently celebrated the planting of their one-billionth tree.



DISCOVERING ALABAMA'S Dr. Doug Phillips will introduce a new video episode of the long running documentary series at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Forest Owners' Association. *Alabama's Private Forests*, made possible by a grant from the Bradley/Murphy Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Trust, describes, through beautiful cinematography and discussions with landowners and consulting foresters, the private forests of our state and the tools we use to manage them. Other topics being considered for the meeting include *Solar Farm Negotiations*, *New Wood Products*, *Small Acreage Market Realities*, and *Management Actions That Pay Off*. See page 5 for room registration information.

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The Wildlife Group

2858 County Road 53
Tuskegee, Alabama 36083
1-800-221-9703

Sawtooth Oak	Japanese Persimmon
Gobbler Sawtooth	Thornless Blackberries
Burr Oak	Methley Plum
Chinese Chestnut	Chickasaw Plum
Dwarf Chinquapin Oak	Black Berries
Callaway Crab Apple	Tree Protectors
Yates Apple	And More!! Persimmon

Creating a wildlife habitat is our business.

"THE LOSS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PAPER MILL

in Courtland dealt a severe blow to [northwest Alabama] timber markets," says forestry consultant and AFOA member Stephan Tomlinson. "...a port on the Tennessee River in Colbert County would provide an inexpensive way for timber owners to get their product to new markets." Source: *Times Daily*, 11/28/16.

IMAGINE AN INDUSTRY

in which taxpayers provide handouts to multi-million-dollar businesses when they don't generate as much revenue as they hoped... this is current agricultural policy." Source: *The Westerner*, 12/14/16. "Personally, I'm in the camp that I would like to see the government get out of it completely. I don't think the subsidies help the farmer. I think it mostly goes to raise land prices and land rents." Source: Darren Grogan, Kentucky, as quoted in *The Progressive Farmer*, 12/16.

"WELFARE CASES" That's what Chuck Sykes, Director of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, called you in an article in *Great Days Outdoors*, 12/16. Evidently, in Sykes opinion, hunting on your own land without a license, a legal activity in Alabama, deserves nothing but his contempt. Is Sykes unaware that nearly all of the hunting land in Alabama is privately owned? Does he not realize that insulting the folks who provide nearly all of the resources he and his agency depend on for a living is counter productive?

BACK IN 2011 WE WROTE: "We wonder what would happen if trespass laws were strengthened and vigorously enforced. Would it be possible to repeal the game laws and allow private owners and the hunters who lease their land to develop and enforce their own game management rules?" **Might it be possible to have abundant wildlife without a Division of Wildlife?**

ANNUAL MEETING IDEAS NEEDED.

Tours, Speakers, Topics. Send suggestions to Lee or call him. RLL@afoa.org or (205) 987-8811. *Thanks.*



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WOODLAND TRAILS: Layout, Building and Maintenance by Shad Baker is a 4 page Extension Service publication that we saw in a Kentucky Woodlands Magazine. AFOA has printed 6 copies and will make them available to the first 6 callers. Late callers will have to find the publication on line with a Google search.



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AFOA's EYVON LAECHELT received a **Phantom IV drone** for Christmas and has agreed to bring it to the Annual Meeting to fly and take pictures and videos. From an article by Eric Johnson in *National Woodlands*, we read: "The controller has a 'return to home' feature that sends the drone back to where it took off, on demand, or when the signal is lost, or the battery runs low. So even if you get lost (it happens), the drone comes back when you hit a button on the controller."