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

Advocate for the Forest Owner

January 2017 Vol. 36, No. 1

www.AFOA.org

CAPITAL IDEAS

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35236-1434

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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 Siievering 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 for more 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 at (334) 427-1029.


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...Tallahassee County 9 AM - 4 PM. Alabama Master Naturalist Course at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. Fee: $30. Contact Shane Harris at (205) 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 Siievering at (205) 339-5716.

January 22...Tallahassee, Florida 11 AM - 3 PM ET. Red Hills Fire Festival at Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservation at 13093 Henry Beadle 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 at (850) 833-4153x345.

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 poll is 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 Hollie Kuykendall at hollie.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov.

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

January 29-31...Miramar, Florida. Southeastern Societ y of American Foresters (SAF) Annual Meeting at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. See January 6-8 for workshop details. 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 snared 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-Rigo and Tim Phelps. Fee: $25. Contact Dana Howard 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 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 Siievering 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 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 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,
STANDING TIMBER VALUES

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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 (683) 836-9291.

FORESTLAND FOR SALE www.forestland.bz

144 acres in Marengo County about 12 miles north of Thomastville. 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.

45 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 (683) 836-9291.

1 GOOD TIMBER TRACT

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

JOHN HALL & COMPANY
(334) 270-8400 WWW.JOHNHALLCO.COM

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

CONSULTING FORESTER - Member: ACF

C. V. Forestry Services Clayton, AL (334)775-8345
Melissa V. Love, RF, ACF Opelika (334)745-7530
Joseph E. Rigby, RF, ACF Georgiana (334)265-8200
Larson & McGowin, Inc. Mobile, AL (251)438-4588
Lesh Bass, RF, ACF Opelika (334)749-0598
Eddie Carlson, RF, ACF Montgomery (334)270-1290
Mckinley & Lanier Forest Res. Tuscaloosa 1-800-247-0041
Arthur C. Dyas, RF, ACF Mobile, AL (251)331-4017
Gibbon Forest Mgmt. Mobile, 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)333-8885

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Stewart Forestry Services, Inc. Decatur, AL (256)350-9721
MidSouth Forestry Services, Inc. Gordo, AL (888)228-7251
Forever Green, Inc. Leeds, AL 1-800-498-5821
American Forest Mgmt. Prattville, AL (334)358-2345
Southern Forest Cnslt. Enterprise, AL (334)393-7868
Eiland Forestry & Real Estate Trussville (205)655-0191
Foster Land Management, LLC Central Ala. (205)826-7741
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)382-3286

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. 1-866-751-5415

Farm & Timber Land AL, GA, TN www.selandgroup.com
John Hall & Co. www.johnhallco.com (334)270-8400
National Land Realty www.nationalland.com (855)NLR-LAND

Eiland Forestry & Real Estate Trussville (205)655-0191

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Southeastern Realty & Auction Co John Hall (334)334-0525
Longleaf Land Co. LLC longleafland.com (334)493-0123
Mossy Oak Properties Logan Land Co. 1-877-377-5263
Target Auction Company All of 1-800-476-3919
Real Estate Auctions SE www.targetauction.com
McKeethen Land & Realty, LLC (251)974-5656

LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Scotch Land Management, LLC Fulton, AL (334)467-2318

PINE STRAW

Wanted: Longleaf / Slash / Straw Harvest Prep Services CCS Pine Straw ccspinestraw@yahoo.com (707)527-0732

POND MANAGEMENT

Honey Hole Fisheries Ralph, AL (205)333-3665

LUMBER & SHEATHING PRICES

Source: Random Lengths MidWeek Market Report
12/16/15 12/20/16
2 x 4 x lumber * $270 $318
7/16” Oriented Strand Board ** $228 $282

* 2x4-2x8@8K Southern Yellow Pine (mill base price) (per 1000 board feet)
** 7/16” OSB (North Central) (Cub. mill price) (per 1000 square feet)


“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
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.

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.

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.

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.”

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, and 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

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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<td>(1st class postage will cause your newsletter to arrive several days earlier than bulk rate)</td>
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[ ] Sustaining Member - 1st Class Postage $480

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

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.*

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—Permit" - 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.), (Ms.), (Mrs.)
Name of Landowner (person, family, partnership, corporation, LLC, etc.)*

(Mr.), (Ms.), (Mrs.)
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)

SEND APPLICATION & PAYMENT TO:

AFOA, Inc.

P. O. Box 361434

Birmingham, AL 35236

Alabama Forest Owners' Association, Inc.

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Ann Garrett, Clerical Assistant

(Calendaring Events continued from page 1)

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 Pratul at (1)-800-285-2740.

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: $17B. 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...Collert/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: $17B. 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/calc/cal.htm#AM170421-22

Always Call Ahead to Confirm Program Details
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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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 insulating 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?”

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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 LACHELT 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.”

The Newsletter of the Alabama Forest Owners’ Association, Inc. (AFOA) January 2017