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# CAPITAL IDEAS

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

*Advocate for the Forest Owner*

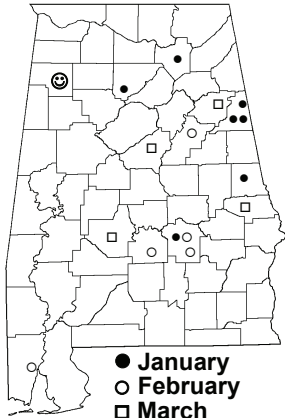
January 2008 Vol. 27, No. 1

[www.AFOA.org](http://www.AFOA.org)

P. O. Box 361434  
 Birmingham, Alabama  
 35236-1434



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



● January  
 ○ February  
 □ March  
 ☺ Forest Facts

### JANUARY 2008

Each weekend of January...Marshall County. **On Eagles Wings** at Lake Guntersville State Park. Watch 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 for pricing at (256) 571-5440.

January 8...Paisley, Florida 9 AM ET. **Forest Stewardship Property Tour** at Tree-Top Lodge property of Ernest and Jo Ann Palmer. This will be a walking tour of trails, firebreaks, and wildlife corridors. Wear appropriate clothing and boots. Program is free, but you must pre-register. Lunch included. Call Martha Thomas, Lake County Extension Office, at (325) 343-4101.

January 12...Cleburne County 10 AM - 1 PM. **Winter Watershed Walk** at Coleman Lake Recreation Area - Talladega National Forest. Learn to identify winter trees and how critters survive the cold weather. Bring snack/water. Pet friendly hike. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$5. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

January 19...Cleburne County 8 AM - 4:30 PM. **Wilderness Survival 101** at Pine Glen Recreation Area - Talladega National Forest. Learn hands-on methods of basic survival skills dealing with water, shelter, food, fire, and getting found. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$10. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

January 21...Newton, Georgia. **Ecological Forestry Workshop** at Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center. Topic: Forest Ecology/Biology. Fee: \$400; includes all meals, accommodations, and transportation once you arrive. Call Society of American Foresters at 1-866-897-8720.

January 22-23...Athens, Georgia. **Timber Market Analysis** at UGA Continuing Education Conference Center. "This course teaches fundamental frame-

works and skills to analyze timber markets for timberland investing, wood procurement, and forest bioenergy facilities." Recommended for forest resource and investment professionals and realtors involved and interested in the buying and selling of raw wood material and timberlands. Fee: \$445. Lunch included. Call Ben Jackson at (706) 542-2194.

January 23...Marianna, Florida 9 AM - 4 PM CT. **Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control** at Jackson County Extension Office. Call (850) 482-9620.

☎ January 23...NATIONWIDE 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM (CT). **CAPITAL IDEAS - LIVE! Telephone News Conference for Alabama Forest Owners.** Listen on your phone or later on the web. Call AFOA to register: (205) 987-8811.

January 23...Nationwide Teleconference Noon CT. **Performance Management for Family Business Employees.** Decisions related to family members joining a family business and advancing through the organization will be discussed on this conference. Fee: \$159. Call 1-800-551-0633 for more information.

January 23-25...Bowling Green, Kentucky. **Biomass to Energy** at Hilton Garden Inn. Sponsored by the Kentucky-Tennessee Society of American Foresters. Fee: \$115; \$10 discount if paid by January 9, 2008. Call John Rennie at (865) 577-6356.

January 24...Chambers County 7:30 AM - 3 PM. **Chambers County Teachers Forestry Workshop.** Tell a teacher about this forestry workshop. Lunch provided. Call Bill Frazer at (334) 864-7865.

January 24...Winona, Mississippi 6 PM. **Tree Farm Program Meeting** at Montgomery County Extension Office. Call Kay Emmons at (662) 283-4133.

January 26...Cleburne County 10 AM - 1 PM. **Cheaha Wilderness Stroll: Winter Waterfalls** at Cheaha State Park. Bring a daypack with water & snacks. Fee: \$5; pre-registration required. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

January 29...Cullman County. **Special General Election for State House District 12.**

January 30...Montgomery County 8 AM - 4:30 PM. **19th Annual Nonpoint Source Conference** at Embassy Suites Conference Center. The conference format consists of presentations on projects, topics, efforts associated with nonpoint source pollution and its impact on water quality. Call Patti Hurley at (334) 394-4350.

January 30 - February 1...Washington, D.C. **Washington Fly-In.** Landowners are able to personally meet with Congressional Delegates on issues that affect forest landowners. Fee: \$125; includes educational materials, Wednesday brief-

ing session break, Wednesday dinner, Thursday breakfast, and Thursday lunch. Register by January 21, 2008. Call the Forest Landowners Association at 1-800-325-2954.

### FEBRUARY 2008

February 5...Alabama Presidential Primary Election.

February 5...Montgomery County. **Alabama Legislative Session** opens. See [www.afa.org/leg.htm](http://www.afa.org/leg.htm) for a changing list of bills that may have impact on forest owners.

February 9...Talladega County 9 AM - Noon. **Winter Hike on the Pinhoti Trail** at Talladega National Forest. Bring a daypack with water & snacks. Pet friendly hike (on leash). Fee: \$5; pre-registration required. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

February 12...Montgomery County 5 PM - 7 PM. **Legislative Reception** sponsored by the Alabama Agribusiness Council. Location: RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery. Call Leigha Cauthen at (334) 215-4442.

February 16...Mobile County. **Women Forest Landowners meeting** at Harrigan Forestry Learning Center, Mobile. Call Joan at 1-888-240-4694.

February 19...Baker County, Florida 9 AM - 12:30 PM. **Forest Stewardship Property Tour** at South Prong Plantation. The plantation encompasses over 2,000 acres of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, and hydric hammock that is home to a variety of wildlife. This will be a driving tour, but some walking can be expected. Program is free, but you must pre-register. Call Baker County Extension Office at (904) 259-3520.

☎ February 20...NATIONWIDE 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM (CT). **CAPITAL IDEAS - LIVE! Telephone News Conference for Alabama Forest Owners.** Listen on your phone or later on the web.

February 20-21...Athens, Georgia. **Risk Analysis & Management in Forestry** at UGA Continuing Education Conference Center. "This course teaches approaches for reducing uncertainty associated with forest management budgets, timberland investments, and procurement activities." Fee: \$445; \$50 discount if paid by January 30, 2008. Lunch provided first day. Call Ben Jackson at (706) 542-2194.

February 22...Tifton, Georgia 8 AM. **Invasive Species Management** at Tifton Conference Center. Call David Moorhead at (229) 386-3298.

February 28-29...Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. **Biotechnology Summit** at Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Topics: Value of Enhanced Genetics, Developing Effective Growth and Yield Equations for Varietals, Crown Architecture of Varietals, and Lumber Quality from Elite Genetics. Fee: \$135. Call Susan John-

son at 1-800-325-2954.

February 29...Statewide. **End of Rabbit, Squirrel, Raccoon, Opossum, and Quail Seasons.**

February 29 - March 2...Lowndes County. **Outdoor Women Unlimited's Southern Classic** at Southern Sportsman Lodge and Conference Center, Benton. Classes available: orienteering & compass, canoe/kayaking, turkey hunting, tree & bird identification classes, tracking class, landscape gardening and landscaping with ponds, survival skills, camping, fly fishing, and much more. Call Rebecca Wood at (334) 398-2335.

February 29 - March 2...Destin, Florida. **Alabama Forestry Association Mid-Winter Meeting** at Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort and Spa. Topics: Drought Impacts, Alabama's Water Resources, Water Policy, Forest Fires and Drought, and Bioenergy Initiatives. Call Fran Whitaker at (334) 265-8733.

### MARCH 2008

March 1...Calhoun County 7 PM - 9 PM. **Early Spring Frog Pond Adventure.** Location: Jacksonville State University Frog Pond. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Fee: \$5; pre-registration required. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

March 7-9...Shelby County. **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman** at Alabama 4-H Center on Lay Lake. Participants choose from over 50 courses such as: backyard wildlife, rock climbing, camp cooking, map and compass, camping, mountain

(CALENDAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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(CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

biking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, and many more. Fee \$199; includes meals, lodging, program materials, and instruction. Call Sylvia Payne at (334) 242-3151.

March 8...Dallas County. **Women in the Outdoors: Central Alabama Pheasant Hunt.** Sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation. Location: Central Alabama Fowl Preserve, Plantersville. Call Nancy Jo Adams at (334) 269-0329.

March 8-11...Savannah, Georgia. **Southern Forest Economics Workers 2008 Annual Meeting** at Hilton Savannah DeSoto. Topic: *Forestland Ownership Change in the South: Implications for Management, Production, and Conservation.* Fee: \$225; \$30 discount if paid by February 8. Includes coffee breaks & lunch on Monday. Call Tommy Tye at (706) 542-5079.

March 13-15...Lee County. **Austrian Scholars Conference** at Mises Center, Auburn. The conference "offers presentations on economics, history, philosophy, and the humanities, with lectures by leaders in the field." Call Patricia Barnett at 1-800-636-4737.

March 15...Turkey Season Opens in All or Portions of 59 counties.

March 19...NATIONWIDE 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM (CT). **CAPITAL IDEAS - LIVE!** Telephone News Conference for Alabama Forest Owners. Listen on

your phone or later on the web.

March 20...Starkville, Mississippi 8 AM - 5 PM. **Land-Mark Systems Intro to ArcGIS for Foresters class.** Fee: \$275. Call Johnny Thompson at (662) 272-5344.

March 24-26...Kissimmee, Florida. **Southern Forestry and Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference** at Radisson Worldgate Resort. Call Ben Jackson at (706) 542-2194.

March 29...Turkey Season Opens in Colbert, Franklin, Madison, Winston, and Parts of Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Limestone Counties.

APRIL 2008

April 11-12...Dallas County. **AFOA Annual Meeting and Tours.** Friday tours will leave from Hampton Inn (Holiday Inn Express - to be open in February - is under construction next door). Saturday registration and indoor meeting will be at Central Alabama Farmers Co-op Auditorium across Highway 14 from Hampton Inn. Make room reservations now.

- Hampton Inn (334) 876-9995
- Holiday Inn Express 1-877-856-7815
- Ramada Inn (334) 872-0461
- Jameson Inn (334) 874-8600
- Comfort Inn (334) 875-5700
- St. James Hotel (334) 872-3234

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Always Call Ahead To Confirm Program Details

**ALTHOUGH CONTAINER SEEDLINGS** have several advantages over bareroot seedlings including longer storage capacity, easier shipping, easier planting and higher survivability, they may have poor root structures that lead to "toppling" of 8' to 20' trees. Source: **Container Seedlings** by Mark Hains in *Georgia Forestry Today*, Sept/Oct 2007.

**NEW 45 MINUTE DVD** from the Longleaf Alliance focuses on "Container-Grown Longleaf Pine Seedling Quality." The DVD helps the viewer to identify characteristics of quality container-grown seedlings and includes discussion of poor root structure. To purchase, call Elizabeth Bowerstock at (334) 844-1012.



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**"MAN GETS 21 YEARS FOR STEALING TREES"** "Lauderdale County Circuit Court Judge Mike Jones chastised Charles Calvin Moore before sentencing him..." "Mr. Moore, you are a thief." The judge "ordered Moore to pay \$20,666 in restitution, the amount Mike Lanier, a law enforcement specialist for the Alabama Forestry Commission, had testified during the trial that the trees from the 12-acre tract were worth." Source: *Times Daily*, 11/9/007.

**TRAPPER'S COLLEGE** is a week-long course, sponsored by the Fur Takers of America. Taught twice each year, once in Indiana and once in Louisiana, this course "would be the best money a land manager could spend to get hands-on training." To learn more, visit [www.furtakersofamerica.com/college.htm](http://www.furtakersofamerica.com/college.htm) Source: **Going Pro for Serious Predator Control, Quality Whitetails**, 12/07.



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**BUILD YOUR OWN DRY KILN.** If you are a hobby lumber maker, you may find a new publication by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources of interest. The goal of the engineers/authors was to "develop a small scale kiln that produced quality kiln dried lumber, was functional throughout the year, was reasonably inexpensive to build, and was constructed with common building materials from the local lumber yard and hardware store." *Dehumidification Drying for Small Woodworking Firms and Hobbyists* (PUB-FR-396-2007) is a 16 page publication that includes detailed building plans. Available on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/pdf/FR-396-2007.pdf> or call Terry Mace at (608) 231-9333.

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**BLACK WALNUT: its growth and management** by F. S. Baker, was published in 1921, but is still recognized by Walnut Council board members, foresters and researchers as a source of wisdom on the subject. "Get your copy of this historical yet useful document" by contacting the Walnut Council Foundation. 43 pages. \$5. Call (765) 583-3501.

**"...I VIEW WITH SADNESS** some current trends in maximizing trophy production at any cost." "At some point, the natural world becomes an artificial world, and at some point wildlife management becomes animal husbandry." Source: *Quality Whitetails* magazine, December 2007, **Keeping the Fun in Hunting** by Dr. Karl V. Miller, professor of wildlife management at the University of Georgia. See **From the Deer Stand** by Bob Crikelair printed on this month's insert.

**BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM** in Selma for AFOA's 2008 Annual Meeting, April 11 & 12. The most convenient motels are the Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express (under construction). Saturday's meeting place will be the Central Alabama Farmers Co-op. Friday's tours will leave from the Hampton Inn. See **Calendar**, page 3.

**PROTECTING THEIR SOURCE OF LOW-COST RAW MATERIALS** was evidently on the minds of several large corporations (do corporations have minds?) when they successfully lobbied Congress to treat woody biomass less favorably than switchgrass in the recently passed Environment & Energy Bill. Forest owners should be more aware of and involved in the legislative process. Forest Landowners Association annually sponsors a **Washington Fly-In** which gives you the opportunity to discuss issues with forestry experts and forest owners and then meet and discuss the issues with your legislators and their staff members. See **Calendar**, January 30 - February 1, page 1.

Forest Landowners Association also sponsors a webpage that provides detailed information about federal legislation.

Similar to that, but with an Alabama focus, AFOA sponsors a webpage that posts bills that have been introduced in Alabama's House and Senate. *Members are urged to suggest bills to be followed on our page and you are encouraged to write your comments about the various bills that might impact forest owners.*

<http://www.afoa.org/leg.htm>

**MIGHTY GIANTS: An American Chestnut Anthology** by Nick Fortuna is a full color anthology with 177 illustrations detailing the rich history of the American chestnut. \$22.35 on Amazon.com.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT TIMBERLAND?** "It's a relatively low-risk investment and is uncorrelated with traditional financial markets. Trees grow no matter what the stock exchanges are doing, or what interest rates are, or what the federal deficit is. Trees grow, and if it's not a favorable moment for a harvest, then you wait. You don't have that option with very many other investments." From Interview with Sally Staley, chief investment officer at Case Western Reserve University, \$1.9 billion in assets, including timberland, in *The Forestry Source*, 12/07.

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**"OVER 400 PROMINENT SCIENTISTS** from more than two dozen countries recently voiced significant objections to major aspects of the so-called "consensus" on man-made global warming." Source: U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works. If you are worried that your kids are worried about the condition of the environment and the correct responses we should make to global warming, you may want to get Holly Fretwell's *The Sky's Not Falling! It's OK To Chill About Global Warming*. 126 pages. \$12.21 at Amazon.com.



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Cap & Trade: The Warner/Lieberman cap & trade bill seeks a 50% reduction in US greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The bill will go before the full Senate in March, and to the House shortly thereafter. Energy legislation has eclipsed climate legislation and the focus has turned to such issues as renewable fuels.

Water: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Jim Oberstar (D-MN), has introduced a bill that redefines the Clean Water Act's "navigable waters" as "waters of the United States". The revised definition would eliminate existing regulatory exclusions from jurisdiction such as waste water treatment ponds, and extend jurisdiction over waters and activities that are not currently subject to federal regulation. The Oberstar committee indicates that a hearing will be rescheduled for January, at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a December 13th hearing on S.1870, the companion bill on wetlands, introduced by Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI).

Farm Bill: The Senate has approved a \$286 billion farm bill with an election-year expansion of subsidies for growers. The bill, passed on a 79-14 veto-proof vote, expands subsidies for wheat, barley, oat, soybeans and several other crops and creates new grants for vegetable and fruit growers. It also provides more money for renewable energy and conservation programs to protect environmentally sensitive land; all over the next five years. While the House and Senate bills are similar, significant differences will have to be worked out after Congress reconvenes in January. But, President Bush has threatened to veto the legislation, saying it costs too much and should instead be cutting subsidies at a time of record-high crop prices. He also has threatened to veto a House version passed in July. Unlike the Senate, the House did not approve the bill by a veto-proof majority, or two-thirds of the chamber. That vote was 231-191. A White House statement issued after the vote reiterated that Bush's advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

Canadian Lumber: A ruling on U.S. allegations that Canada has violated terms of the U.S./Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement is expected by the end of February. The ruling will be issued by the London Court of International Arbitration. You may recall that the U.S. alleges that Canada violated terms of the pact by shipping too much wood from Western Canada, and by improperly providing aid to lumber producers in Quebec and Ontario.

Energy Bill: The House has passed the Senate version of the energy bill with an unacceptable definition of 'wood biomass'. And the president has signed the legislation. But, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-M) vowed that Democrats will try again next year to pass two other sections of the bill that were dropped from the current bill; a package of tax incentives to encourage development of alternative energy sources and a mandate that utilities produce 15 percent of their electricity from alternative sources by 2020. If the definitional needs of the forest landholding community are not sufficiently addressed in technical-corrections or in rulemaking (*i.e.*, regulations), then next year may be another opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners. The measure that has passed Congress would require a 40 percent increase in fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, from a combined 25 miles per gallon today to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. It also would require 36 billion gallons of ethanol and other biofuels to be incorporated into gasoline by 2022. It would mandate production of more energy-efficient home appliances, such as washing machines, dishwashers and refrigerators, and would require the Energy Department to expedite the approval of new efficiency standards.

ESA: The Bush administration has been making significant, positive adjustments to the Endangered Species Act. Recently, the administration determined to ask for an independent review of the recovery plan for the northern spotted owl, after scientists and U.S. legislators said the plan was subject to political interference. According to a peer-review panel's findings in August, the draft recovery plan selectively cited scientific reports and data in order to justify its proposal to reduce protection for old-growth forests and emphasize the threat of the barred owl to the spotted owl. The plan was prepared in response to a court settlement with the American Forest Resource Council. The northern spotted owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, fueling the debate over logging forests in the Pacific Northwest, but no recovery plan was ever finalized.

AMTaxes: Congress has passed a one-year patch for the alternative minimum tax (AMT), which will "protect" 23 million middle-income American workers from a tax increase. Unfortunately after months of delaying this bill, it will now force the IRS to reprogram their computers and reprint essential collection forms – slowing the process of sending out individual refund checks.

Death Tax: Whoopi Goldberg, movie star and a co-host of ABC's talk-show *The View*, has announced her support for death tax repeal. During introduction of *The View's* guest, presidential candidate Representative Ron Paul, Whoopi interrupted to state, "I'd like somebody to get rid of the death tax." She went on to explain the moral outrage of the death tax, "You know, I just don't think it's right. If I give something to my kid [then] I already paid the tax, why do I have to pay it again because I died?"

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