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

Advocate for the Forest Owner
July 2017
Vol. 36, No. 7
www.AFOA.org

Southern Forests at the County Extension Office, 23952 Alabama Hwy 55, Suite 4, Andalusia. This program will cover “Effects and Management Strategies to Promote Forest Resiliency”. Call the Extension Office at (334) 222-1125.

July 13...Henry County 6:15 - 9 PM. Estate Planning for Farmers and Other Landowners at the Wiregrass Research and Education Center, 2943 7th Street, Eufaula, See July 6 for more details. Call Casey Anderson at (334) 581-3686.

July 17...Chilton County 6:15 - 9 PM. Estate Planning for Farmers and Other Landowners at the Guntersville Regional Reception, 2030 7th Street, S., Clanton. Topics include: Safe State, First Aid, Trucking Regulations, Right-of-Ways, and Forest BMP/Forest Health. Landowners are welcome to attend, but fee is required. PLM and CFE pts. available. Fee: $595; $115 discount if paid in advance. Lunch provided. Call Brian Smith at (205) 755-3042.

July 18...Lauderdale County 6:15 - 9 PM. Estate Planning for Farmers and Other Landowners at the Extension Office, 802 Veterans Drive, Florence. See July 6 for more details. Call Heidi Telenius at (256) 747-6223.

July 20...Crenshaw County 6 - 9 PM. Homeowner Protection From Wildfires Seminar at the Crenshaw County Extension Office, 5150 State Highway 112, Elberta. Speaker: Dr. Becky Barlow. Call Derek Bryan at (334) 335-6312.

July 20...Bibb County 6 - 9 PM. Homeowner Protection From Wildfires Seminar at the Bibb County Board of Education Auditorium, 6416 Eastland Road. Speaker: Casey Anderson at (334) 581-3686.

July 21-23...Jekyll Island, Georgia. Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) Annual Conference & Forest Expo at Jekyll Island Convention Center. Fee: $595; $100 discount if paid by July 7. Call GFA at (478) 992-8110.

July 21-23...Jefferson County. Annual World Deer Expo at Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex, 2100 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham. The expo will have hunting products, apparel, outfitters from all over the world, seminars, outdoor celebrities, kids’ activities, and more. Fee: $10; kids receive discounted admission. Call Channing Brown at (205) 678-4145.

July 23-28...Lee County. Wildlife Camp at Auburn University. This all-inclusive camp is an exciting mix of hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, taught by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System professionals. Open to rising 9-12 graders ages 15-18. Fee: $700.
FORESTLAND FOR SALE  www.forestland.bz

30 acres in Marion County at 1125 Jimmy Brown Road, Hamilton. Heavily wooded, 20 yr pines, power available, homestite, great hunting, and road frontage. $59,900. Call Rosa at (205) 822-6695.

- Dow-Jones Industrial Average: 21397.29
- 10-year Treasury yield: 2.153%
- Dollar: 111.33 Yen; Euro: $1.1153
- Oil: $42.74/barrel
- Gold: $1,247.60/roy ounce


CLASSIFIED SECTION

CONSULTING FORESTER - continued

Richard Crenshaw, RF Greenville, AL (334)382-3826

CONSULTING WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Mark Thomas, CWB Hoover (205)733-0477

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Tree Trans-planter 4 diameter tree, 6 spade (901)481-7184

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 (334)358-2345
American Forest Mgmt. Prattville, AL (334)358-2345
Southeastern Land Group, Inc. 1-866-751-5263 Farm & Timber Land AL, GA, TN www.selangdroup.com
John Hall & Co. www.johnhallco.com (334)270-8400
National Land Realty www.nationalland.com (855)NR-LAND

Tutt, Carlson, Hudson, John Hall, National Land Realty...for a list in your county, call AFOA at (205)987-8811.

TIMBER BUYER

Blue Ox Forestry, Inc. www.blueoxforestry.com (334)875-5100
IndusTREE Timber, Inc. www.indusree.com (334)675-3436
Ronny Wimberley Land & Timber Division 1-877-292-0056

TIMBER SALES

TIMBER BUYER LIST for your county. Printed on gummed labels ready for mailing prospectus. Just tell us the county in which your timber is located. $15 per county. MEMBERS ONLY: AFOA, Box 361434, Birmingham, AL 35236

TREE PLANTING EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

Site Preparation & Tree Planting Services. For a list in your county, call AFOA at (205)987-8811.

TREES FOR SALE

LOUISIANA FOREST SEED CO. (318)443-5026

TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

INTERNATIONAL FOREST COMPANY TECHNOLOGY THAT GROWS CONTAINER SEEDLINGS

AuthorGen, LLC Selma: 1-800-222-1280 or (334)472-5452
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


WOODLAND MULCHING

Sand MT Land & Timber www.sandmt.com North Alabama (256)504-6320

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES: First Line $85.00/year.
Richard Crenshaw, a consulting forester based in Greenville, took the step toward a small consultancy when travel all over the southeast with a larger firm became impractical for his family. Now he helps private landowners in the Butler County region achieve their goals. He says most of his clients own from twenty acres to a few hundred acres, and being on his own gives him the flexibility to take on jobs that wouldn’t be cost effective for larger consultants. “I can take any job that I think I can help the person with,” he says. Crenshaw chooses to stick with more traditional forestry methods rather than some of the more gadget-heavy, technology-intensive approaches. “I use more paper than some foresters,” he says. “We are growing trees, after all.” A great deal of Crenshaw’s day-to-day work includes timber estimation, boundary maintenance, and timber sales, along with some urban forestry for the city of Montgomery. For his clients’ larger-scale needs, he works with local contractors. On a day to day basis, Crenshaw says marking timber for a select cutting is one satisfying aspect of his job, because choosing which trees to cut lets him have a hand in shaping the future of the forest. But what he finds most rewarding is guiding clients through their options on major decisions and knowing he’s helped someone accomplish something they couldn’t have otherwise.

4,000 EMPLOYEE DOWNSIZING is planned for the U.S. Department of Interior by Secretary Ryan Zinke. Source: Washington Post, 6/21/17. In a separate report, The Westerner, 6/15/17, pointed out that EPA’s proposed 30% budget cuts have been met with “strong opposition at House panel.” Evidently Republican lawmakers have not been eager supporters of the proposed cuts. What a surprise.

SHORST TERM FEE HUNTING IS NOT COVERED by AFOA’s Hunting Lease Liability Group Insurance Policy provided by Outdoor Underwriters, Inc. If you suspect that someone who is leasing your land is conducting guided hunts for a fee, they may be jeopardizing your protection. Since AFOA began making the policy available to our members, the application has read: “…commercial dove shoots and short term fee hunting are not covered.”

ALSO - RELATED TO INSURANCE PROTECTION. Ed Wilson, Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., asked us to pass along the following advice to AFOA members who seek liability protection related to hunting:

If a hunting club is operating on the property it is much better to have a lease in place. Almost all of the wording is specifically designed as “hunting lease” liability insurance and hunting club liability insurance. Formal leases are better for the landowner than informal leases.

The Timberland Liability Group Insurance Policy covers the landowner for their own hunting or (their liability) from guest hunting on their property.

If the landowner wants to provide liability coverage for his guest (members/guest with named insured status), the landowner’s protection would be improved by having a lease in place. Especially if money changes hands. AFOA’s Hunting Lease Liability Group Insurance Policy would be used.

If the landowner owns the land and is operating as a hunting club it is better to formalize that structure (hunting club name, members, rules).

If they own the property and just use it for hunting, a timberland liability policy would serve the same function. The only difference - it would not provide named insured status to guest/members.

For my own property I just take out timberland liability. If I regularly had the same guest hunting on the property and I wanted them to have named insured status, I would form a club under my own name and have them listed as club members/guest and take out a hunting lease policy.

So, yes the landowners can take out either policy to protect their liability from hunting. But the more formal the established “hunting club” the better off they are in a claim situation.
Hey Folks!

Once again, I was privileged to experience a great west Texas hunting trip with Harold Ridgeway and Mark Sasser. Penny, an English pointer, was our best bird finder. We found similar numbers of coveys as we found last year. The high day covey count was 20 coveys. I asked, “What is the biologist secret to high bird numbers in west Texas? What does Texas do to have so many quail?” The answer is not a damned thing!

It is just naturally occurring. It is the land use, plants like ragweed, the rain fall and the lack of invasive grass species. This is the correct habitat that quail need. The same can be achieved in Alabama. But it is far from natural. We have progressed into a land use that a young person the age of 30 will think is normal. But in 1950, land use was quite different than the one we have in Alabama today.

Let us focus on a few changes in control burning, invasive species, rotary mowers, fire ants, and other predators. Quail hunters like Leon Flynn talk about the rural neighbors burning the woods every year. Burning without establishing fire lanes, burning without a permit and burning without any problems. Annual burning removed the pine straw, leaves, dead grass and fallen trees. Annual burning did not allow the fuel buildup that creates extremely hot fires. Fescue, an invasive species, was discovered growing in Menifee County, Kentucky in 1931. It was planted for pasture grazing. An improved variety known as Kentucky 31 was released in 1965. It may be a host to an endophyte found last year. The high day covey count was 20 coveys. I asked, “What is the biologist secret to high bird numbers in west Texas? What does Texas do to have so many quail?” The answer is not a damned thing!

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Not that anyone intentionally set out to destroy quail habitat. Cattle men seeking to provide better grazing for their cattle introduced fescue to their pastures. This grass creates a thick thatch quail cannot penetrate. The Bush Hog allowed the pasture to be cleaned to the wood line, removing all edges. The edge is the transition area between the fields and the deep woods where quail thrive. All along “Smokey the Bear” was shaming people to stop burning. No control burning allows the forest to grow dense. Leaves fall year after year and the quail cannot scratch for food. Early succession plants are shaded out. Fire ants came to Alabama through the port of Mobile in the 1930’s. These ants destroy hatching quail chicks. Fire ants slowly but progressively moved through the south. USDA aerial pesticide applications come with some problems and get canceled. Fire ants are just one of the many predators.

Over the past 70 years, these inventions, actions and land use changes have greatly impacted the quail habitat. It cannot be over stated the land use in Alabama has changed. The changes have not been beneficial for quail. I live for the day quail habitat improvement is a common practice in Alabama.

Frank Harris, Alabama Quail Hunters

This article first appeared in the March 2017 issue of the Alabama Quail Hunters Newsletter and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

Dean’s Notebook: A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Enterprise Management is on the Horizon at Auburn!

Hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other outdoor recreation activities account for about $4 billion annually and 42K jobs in the state of Alabama alone. Throughout the country there are thousands of small, medium, and large enterprises in both the public and private sectors engaged in these activities. A workforce is needed with multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills relating to wildlife management, business, and hospitality and customer relations to support and expand these enterprises. Currently, only Kansas State University, or KSU, is producing graduates with these skills by offering a bachelor's degree in “Wildlife Outdoor Enterprise Management.”

Conversations with representatives from private outdoor clubs and enterprises, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, KSU faculty, and several other groups/organizations suggest that there is a huge demand for graduates to support the outdoor enterprise industry within the U.S. and around the world. This has prompted the Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences (SFWS), to develop a bachelor's degree program in Wildlife Enterprise Management.

Drawing on Auburn University's SFWS expertise in wildlife and outdoor recreation management, College of Business expertise in marketing, finance, and accounting and the College of Human Sciences expertise in hospitality, restaurant, and customer relations, we are developing a bachelor's degree in wildlife enterprise management with a minor in business. Current student enrollment at KSU suggests that we can anticipate annual enrollment of at least 25 new students each year within 5 years, with enrollment anticipated to increase each year after.

Students who successfully complete this program will:
- Have a deeper understanding of wildlife management as it applies to consumptive and non-consumptive enterprises;
- Appreciate the fundamentals of conservation biology and ecotourism;
- Have skill sets in the hospitality industry as it relates to customer service, food and beverage production, lodging, and law;
- Have knowledge of the accounting, finance, and other business principles required to manage small or medium size operations;
- Be able to effectively market and advertise a wildlife or outdoor-related enterprise.

This interdisciplinary degree program will be supported in part by the University's Core course requirements. In addition to AU's core requirements, there is a need for additional business-related courses that will fall under the College of Business and additional science courses above the core requirements that will fall under the College of Science and Mathematics. However, the majority of the wildlife management course requirements will come from within the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the hotel and restaurant management course requirements from within the College of Human Sciences.

If this new major is approved, we believe it will be very popular with new and transferring students who are interested in careers in wildlife and outdoor-related enterprises. With only one other program of its kind in the U.S. and the expansive field of job opportunities available both nationally and internationally, we fully anticipate that our program will attract a diverse body of students from across the country and beyond to join this growing industry.

Students interested in this career path may contact our student recruiter at workingwithnature@auburn.edu for more details about the proposed degree program.

Dr. Janaki Alavalapati is Dean of the School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University.

This article first appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of Alabama Forests and is reprinted here with permission of the author and the editor.
For current membership application please visit this link: http://www.afoa.org/PDF/membappl.pdf
KEEPING KIDS SAFE IN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT is the goal of Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. We frequently list Progressive Agriculture Safety Days in our Calendar of Events (there are none listed this month), and we encourage landowners to participate. If you would like to hold a 2018 safety day in your area, applications are due by July 15. Visit www.progressiveag.org to apply or call 888-257-3529.

SIX IN 10 ADULTS SAY they’d be wealthier today if they had listened to their parents, according to a survey from Mint.com, which polled 2,000 adults in January. The big miss: 85 percent said they wished they had started saving money from an earlier age, as their parents recommended. Source: Kelli Grant, CNBC, as quoted in The Advisor, 6/17.

ALSO SEEN IN THE ADVISOR:

“Property tax should be raised, not with a huge jump or all at once, but slowly and in slight increments.” The Advisor is the newsletter of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.


WOOD by William Hall showcases 170 buildings made from forest products over the last 1,000 years. “Illustrated with extraordinary photographs, each project includes an extended caption providing an insightful commentary on the building.” $31.42 hardcover at Amazon.com.

SIX YEARS AGO, we were busy sending you information on Forest Recovery meetings. Recovery from the devastating tornadoes that swept through Alabama.

“THOUGH PERHAPS NOT AS COMMON AS IT ONCE WAS, timber theft still occurs, and it’s unfortunate. I have observed through the years that timber theft is usually a result of many factors. There’s absentee overstep, when the owners live elsewhere and a criminal knows it, not unlike a thief who targets an out-of-town homeowner. There are instances where there’s a lack of well-defined property boundaries. Owners who do not visit their land frequently or keep an eye on the outer reaches of it also can be victimized. There also are ornery neighbors, unscrupulous partners, and simply failure to communicate. ...forest landowners should be engaged with their land.” Source: Absentee Ownership, Vague Property Lines and Dodgy Partners, by David Mercker in Forest Landowner, July/August 2017.

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C.J. Blanton Jr. / Cell 850-673-7421
Email: blantonsnursery@earthlink.net

ALABAMA SUPER TREE NURSERY

Also seen in the Advisor:

“Property tax should be raised, not with a huge jump or all at once, but slowly and in slight increments.” The Advisor is the newsletter of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.


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