

## Forestry field day assists small landowners

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Staff Writer

A forestry field day was hosted on January 17, with consulting forester John Loflin, Loflin Forest Management. The program was presented in a field visit to the property of landowner Lloyd Culp. The forestry field day event gave small landowners of Covington County and surrounding counties the opportunity to learn how to have more successful timber sales.

Additionally, Andrew Loflin and Parker Smith, accompanied Loflin. LFM, a family ran business, has a combined five decades of forest management experience, making them an expert in the field. They focus on small landowners with 500 acres and below.

"It is easy, in Alabama, to think small landowners have lost their power because it looks like they are fading away," said Andrew Loflin. "But actually small landowners own over 75 percent of Alabama's forest land."

While big companies do have power, the wood is on the landowner's property.

The group discussed how landowners could generate or enhance income from woodland property. Their presentation, "Forest Management for Small Landowners," covered forest management challenges such as replanting, choosing the right tree species for a site, thinning, prescribed fire and working with neighboring landowners to form a co-op for more successful logging and timber sales.

John Loflin is the expert on logging. He has been logging for 40 years.

"The whole timber industry has changed. The day of the short wood truck and the guy with a skooter is gone," said John. "If people that are in the logging business can't get 40 to 50 loads a week, they can not make their payments. It is a production deal which creates a problem for small landowners because we may not have enough to get them interested in cutting it."

Unfortunately, other services like herbicide sprayers are the same; they do not wish to come in for just a few acres. This put small landowners at a disadvantage. This is when small landowners forming a co-op to assist them in bundling their timber together to bring in a logging company or these other services needed.

Drone technology is a modern invention that is coming into agriculture and forestry. Smith offered a presentation into how drones are operated in forestry. These are great for keeping a close eye on your property with live updates.

"It is a long list of paperwork to get certified to fly a drone," said Smith. "But the one I am looking at can carry two and a half to four gallons of herbicide spray. This may not seem like much but it has GPS tracking, it can map out the area to spray and can get against the boundary lines. The precision is phenomenal."

In addition, LBWCC Forest Technology

instructor Mark Hains gave the landowners beneficial information about insects that could harm their trees.

The Bradley/Murphy Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Trust sponsored this forestry field visit. The trust was established in 1992 by an initial gift from forestry consultant, Harry Murphy. Its mission is to encourage, promote, and develop through education and the free-market system the stewardship of forest and related natural resources in the private sector.

The Alabama Forest Owners' Association (AFOA) is non-profit, self-supporting association, dedicated to providing management and ownership assistance to current and future owners of forested land. Forests cover 75 percent of Alabama, producing clean water, clean air, diverse wildlife habitat, and raw materials for thousands of jobs. Individuals and families privately own most forestland in Alabama.



Landowners gathered for a forestry field day with John Loflin

## Obituaries

### Jennifer Wells



Jennifer Wells age 38, a resident of Opp, Alabama passed away Saturday, January 18, 2020 at her home. Funeral services were held at Hayes Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM with Rev. Johnny Lawrence officiating. Burial followed in the Zoar Community Cemetery with

Hayes Funeral Home directing. Visitation was at Hayes Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

She is survived by her husband - Edward M. Updegraff of Opp, AL, mother - Debra Odom (L.C.) Cook, along with step sisters - Linda Anderson, Marietta, GA, and Crystal Nelson of Opp, AL, and step brothers - Marcus Cook, Port Saint Lucie, FL, Troy Cook, Opp, AL, and Jamie Brockton of Ozark, Alabama.

Jennifer was preceded in death by her father Frank Michael Wells.

Hayes Funeral Home of Elba, Alabama is serving the Wells family.



Photos courtesy of Opp Equine Association

Buckle winners in the Open 5D division are as follows: 1D Champion - Brynne Spurlin of Andalusia; 2D Champion - Jaden Musgrove of Andalusia; 3D Champion - Taylor Stinson of Greenville; 4D Champion - Sara Breedlove of Opp; 5D Champion - Shelby Braden of Greenville.

## Super Santa Barrel Series

During December, the Opp Equine Association hosted a Super Santa Barrel Series.

Susan Musgrove said, "We had a great turn out and appreciate everyone who braved the weather."

Competitors rode in the Open 5D division, Youth 3D division, and Open 3D Poles division.

Their 2019 Year-End Awards Banquet was Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Opp Senior Center.

The first fun day for 2020 will be Saturday, March 21. Barrel Exhibitions will begin at 2 p.m. and the fun day events will begin at 3 p.m. There will be classes for all ages and levels of experience. For more information, please call 504-1391/406-0078 or visit their FaceBook group, Opp Equine Association.



The 3D Pole Bending Champions are as follows: 1D - Jaden Musgrove of Andalusia; 2D (tie) - Brynne Spurlin of Andalusia and Laura Rowell of Opp; 3D - Shelby Braden of Greenville.



Champions in the Youth 3D are as follows: 1D Champion - Clara Chandler of Goshen; 2D Champion - Myah Moorehead of Greenville; 3D Champion - Sara Breedlove of Opp

## Shriners welcomes two created Nobles

On January 10, Brian Smith and Scotty Short of Opp were created Nobles at Alcazar Shrine Center in Montgomery. Scotty is a member of Concord Lodge No. 50 in Crestview and Opp Lodge No. 605. Brian is a member of Opp Lodge No. 605 and Sawyer Lodge No. 93 in Wedowee. Alcazar Shriners welcomes these two new Nobles and wish them the best in their Shrine journey.

Shriners International is made up of Master Masons throughout the world. Since 1922, the Shriner's philanthropy has been the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Starting with three hospitals, Shriners now have 22 hospitals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These hospitals provide top-notch treatment to children with severe burns, orthopedic problems, and cleft palate. No eligible child is turned away because of

the family's inability to pay. If insurance is available, it is accepted, but if not, the treatment is provided free of charge. These hospitals are also highly-rated teaching hospitals for medical professionals and cutting-edge research is carried out at them as well.



Pictured with Brian Smith and Scotty Short is Eddie Ellis (center), High Priest & Prophet of Alcazar Temple

## What's Happening

### Democratic Party Meeting

The Covington County Democratic Party meets the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at their headquarters office located at 1033 East Three Notch Street in Andalusia, Alabama. The next meeting is Monday, February 3, 2020. There is also an OA

potluck breakfast social the first Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

### Opp Historical Society

The Opp Historical Society will meet on Feb. 3 at noon, 208 N. Whaley Street. Everyone welcome. Bring a covered dish

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