



A Letter From The President

ATFA Members,

I hope you're doing well and staying dry. While a rainy summer may delay some management practices or change plans, we're thankful to be out of last year's drought. Drought has lingering effects, but hopefully the rain that has blessed our state will alleviate remaining issues. I'd like to thank the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) for its hard work throughout last year's eventful fire season. It protected thousands of acres of timberland and private property. If you work with any AFC employees in your county, thank them when you can.

Looking toward the future, I hope to see many of you in Florence at our annual meeting at the Marriott Shoals Oct. 26-28. We're excited to visit a new area of the state and hope to see old friends and meet new ones. This year's conference will follow a similar format as last year's, starting with an optional tour Thursday and concluding with a devotional breakfast Saturday. Friday's events will be slightly different, but we hope you'll enjoy the changes. Our board has worked hard to make this conference enjoyable and educational. Stay tuned for more information.

In other news, our redesigned vanity license plate is available. The funds generated by this tag are vital to educational programs like Classroom in the Forest. And you can show everyone that you'd "rather be in the woods!"

As my tenure as state president ends, I'd like to thank each of you across the state. I've enjoyed my time with you immensely. Without private landowners and those who believe in good land stewardship, our association would not exist. We've grown stronger in the past few years, and I look forward to seeing further growth in the association. My wife, Jan, and I are grateful for this experience. Getting to know many of you and seeing how you promote forest stewardship is incredibly rewarding.

We'll see you in the Shoals. But for now, you know where I'll be — in the woods.

Billy Joe Johnson



Johnson

Extreme Rainfall Hurts, Helps Timber Industry

By Ellie Isbell

Extrême rainfall and standing water posed problems for loggers in parts of Alabama this summer, with some areas receiving up to 30 inches of rain in June. At the same time, heavy rains helped trees recover from last year's drought.

In Chambers County, Chris Langley, owner of Chris Langley Timber and Management Inc., said his property received 11 inches of rain in June.

"We don't log in wet conditions because we want to take care of the properties and the soil we are on," said Langley, whose company operates three fully mechanized logging crews. "We don't want to damage the root systems of nearby trees or create ruts in the mud."

Langley said crews cut timber 12 out of 20 work days in June, causing a near 50 percent decrease in production.

Although production is down, Langley said abundant rain can be positive.

"This summer is a whole lot better on trees than last summer," he said. "The surface of the ground and roots dried out last summer due to the drought, and a lot of trees died. We really needed all the rain we got this year to catch up with the rain we missed. It will help the seedlings grow and produce healthy trees."

Though much timberland around Alabama has been waterlogged this summer, tree damage from standing water should be minimal, said the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's (ATFA) William Green.

"Heavy rain should only affect trees on low land," said Green, the ATFA's executive director. "Standing water can affect pine trees if roots don't have access to air for several days. However, hardwood varieties can better withstand being waterlogged."

Despite the heavy rainfall, Langley encourages loggers and tree farmers to remain optimistic.

"Trees are a long-term crop, and this will all balance out in the end," he said. "We just have to look at the big picture." ■



2017 ATFA Annual Meeting

October 26-28 | Florence

Thursday

1:30 p.m. Optional Tour – Historic Music Venues of the Shoals

5:00 p.m. Welcome Reception (silent auction opens)

1:30 p.m. Educational Sessions begin

4:45 p.m. Educational Sessions end

5:00 p.m. Silent Auction closes

6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet

Friday

8:00 a.m. Tour a local TREASURE Forest

12:00 p.m. Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Lunch with special keynote speaker

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Devotional Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Conference concludes

Register at TREASUREForest.org.

CALLING ALL FOREST FANATICS

Want to reach 200+ Alabama forest landowners with YOUR business or product?

Consider sponsoring the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Annual Meeting Oct. 26-28 in Muscle Shoals.

You'll receive:

- Recognition on printed materials
- A booth at the ATFA tradeshow
- Complimentary banquet tickets

Contact William Green at (334) 612-5235 or wmgreen@alfafarmers.org.

Silent AUCTION

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE, SOLD!

Don't miss out on one of the highlights of our annual meeting — the silent auction benefiting outreach and education.

Brainstorm auction ideas now, and let William Green know the item(s) you and your county will donate by Oct. 16.

Suggested items:

- Clothing (rain gear, boots, etc.)
- Tools and equipment
- Furniture (rocking chairs, benches, etc.)
- Gift certificates

Contact William Green at (334) 612-5235 or wmgreen@alfafarmers.org.

See you in the Shoals!

Congratulations to Glenn and Scarlett Riley of Abbeville — the Southern Regional Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year! They compete for the national title later this year. Learn more about the Rileys in the June Neighbors magazine.

Upcoming Events

- August 1** Managing Wild Pig Damage Workshop
Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Arena in Athens
Register at aces.edu/go/749
- August 1-4** Alabama Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Course
Auburn University
Register at tinyurl.com/burncertification
- August 3** Managing Wild Pig Damage Workshop
5 Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort
Register at aces.edu/go/749
- August 3-6** Alabama Farmers Federation Commodity Producers Conference
Birmingham
Contact William Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org
- August 10** Feral Hog Management Workshop
Houston County Extension Office in Dothan
Call Houston County Extension at (334) 794-4108 to register
- September 15** Managing Wild Pig Damage Workshop
Covington County Extension Office in Andalusia
Register at aces.edu/go/749
- October 26-28** ATFA Annual Meeting
Muscle Shoals
Register at TREASUREForest.org

Moody, Fortenberry Awards Nominations Due Sept. 22

Nomination forms for two Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) awards are available at TREASUREForest.org. Forms are due Sept. 22. Winners will be announced at the ATFA annual meeting in Muscle Shoals Oct. 27.

The Bill Moody Award is the ATFA's highest honor and is given annually to a TREASURE Forest landowner who exemplifies the organization's multiple-use forest philosophy.

This award is named after retired State Forester William "Bill" Moody, who established the TREASURE Forest program to recognize landowners committed to multiple-use management.

The four tenets a Bill Moody Award winner should display are stewardship, sustainability, education and partnership.

Four regional Gary Fortenberry Partnership Awards recognize representatives of government agencies, academia, industry and other forest resource organizations for their partnership with, and support of, the ATFA at the county level.

An individual in each of the ATFA's regions — north, central, southeast and southwest — may receive an award.

Nominees will be judged on contributions in

- building and growing a county chapter
- participating in chapter activities
- supporting, empowering and encouraging landowner leadership in chapter activities
- outreach efforts to include youth, women, minorities and non-forest landowners in chapter programs.

Access nomination forms at TREASUREForest.org.

Questions? Contact the ATFA's William Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org or (334) 612-5235. ■

BOARD SPOTLIGHT GETTING TO KNOW Gene & Jana Renfroe

Gene and Jana Renfroe have served the ATFA for six and three years, respectively, and received the organization's highest honor, the Bill Moody Award, in 2016. The Renfroes have been married 39 years, have two sons, Austin and Hunter, and have one granddaughter, Marley. While their certified TREASURE Forest is in Pike County, the Renfroes reside in Birmingham. Gene also serves on the Alabama Natural Resource Council's TREASURE Forest Certification subcommittee, which reviews landowners nominated to become certified TREASURE Forests.

1) Why is TREASURE Forest important?

The certification program is a great way to recognize landowners who go above and beyond basic property management and promote holistic management. There's more to managing the woods than timber or wildlife management. TREASURE Forests take into account wildlife, timber, air, water and other environmental factors.

2) When did you get involved with the ATFA?

We got involved before our property was certified in 2007, so we've been involved locally for years. Our first experience was hosting Classroom in the Forest. Educating children and landowners is so important. Reaching those who may not know how to sustainably manage property is a great way to spread the ATFA's ideals of good land stewardship.

ATFA President Billy Joe Johnson presented Gene and Jana Renfroe the Bill Moody Award at last year's annual meeting.



How To Recognize Signs Of Pine Bark Beetles

Pine bark beetles are some of the most destructive native forest insects in the South. This broad label includes several species of Dendroctonus beetles attracted to pine trees under stress, like those dealing with drought, root damage or poor growing conditions.

To identify pine bark beetles, keep these tips in mind.

- Pitch tubes appear as white, popcorn-like spots of dried pine resin and occur on the main stem of the pine from ground to canopy, depending on beetle species.
- Galleries, or etched markings, can appear under the bark. Landowners can identify the beetle type by the marking. Ips Engraver beetles form markings shaped like "H" or "I". Southern pine beetles can etch the letter "S".
- As beetle populations and damage increase, needles turn yellow and then rust colored.
- Once they complete their 18- to 25-day life cycle, beetles exit the tree leaving small, round, pin-sized holes. ■

Source: Alabama Extension

TREASURE Forest License Plates Ready Now



The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) vanity tag is now available at county licensing offices. Those who provided an email address with their pre-order application should have received a redemption voucher for the plate. The "I'd Rather Be In The Woods!" tag supports educational programs like Classroom in the Forest and landowner tours. Pictured, ATFA Executive Director William Green shows off where he'd rather be.

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