



TREASURE Forest Tag Funds Plant Seeds Of Education For Tomorrow



I'd Rather Be in the Woods." Wouldn't you? This is a phrase all can relate to and that likely crosses minds on a daily basis. Whether it be roaming pastures, tilling the earth, clearing brush or just sitting and enjoying the stillness, there is something special about spending time exploring God's creation. If everyone were able to experience this tranquility the world would be a better place. One of ATFA's goals is to help people achieve this right in their own backyards, and we can do this by spreading the word to everyone in the state!

As most know, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association boasts its own spe-

A Letter from the President

As many of you know, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) has a lot going on right now. One of our most important goals is providing landowners with the help they need to be better caretakers of the land they have been entrusted to manage. We do this by providing funds to county chapters to sponsor programs for landowners; sponsoring educational events covering topics like forest roads, wildlife management, tax and other financial planning; providing liability insurance for educational events hosted on members' properties; and of course, Classroom in the Forest.

There are a lot of ways we help landowners better manage what God has loaned them. But, as we all know, these programs require funding. That's where we need your help. Have you purchased one of the ATFA's "I'd Rather Be in the Woods" tags? For only \$50 a year you can put one of these eye-catching tags on your car and demonstrate your commitment to our educational efforts.

Even better, we'll reimburse you for your first year's expense! Simply go to your county probate office, buy the "I'd Rather Be in the Woods" tag, and download the tag reimbursement form on our website—TreasureForest.org.

Show your commitment to ATFA through purchasing this tag. If you have any questions, call Rick Oates or Boyd Christenberry at (888) 240-4694.

John Frank Farrow

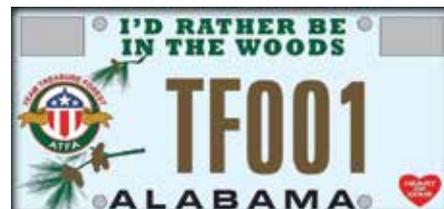
Billy Joe and Jan Johnson hosted six Classroom in the Forest events.

cialized license plate. What you may not be aware of are the unseen benefits that this tag brings to the citizens of our state. Aside from advertising our organization, it also funds field trips for Alabama's youth so they can have a day in the great outdoors. The program is called "Forest in the Classroom, Classroom in the Forest" (CIF) and many of you have probably had the pleasure of attending one. CIF is a two-day program designed to educate fifth-grade students from Alabama about the value of our forests. On the first day, lessons are delivered in a classroom setting, while on the second day the children are bussed to a local landowner's property to get a more hands-on experience. This is possible through parents, teachers and volunteers from all walks of life working together.

Billy Joe Johnson and his wife, Jan, have hosted six CIF events on their property in Piedmont, with more than 1,000 fifth-graders. Most recently they hosted nearly 140 students from Center Middle School and Spring Garden High School. During the day, the students rotated among five stations that included education on water oxygen levels, "skins and skulls," tree thinning and more.

"We most enjoy seeing the excitement and the wonder in the kids' eyes as they visit the different stations and learn about private land ownership, conservation, water quality, gun safety, the environment, and wildlife," Billy Joe Johnson said. "In our opinion, this activity is probably the most important part of ATFA since it touches the lives of our young people and makes them hands-on aware of the goals the landowners are trying to accomplish."

If you haven't had the opportunity to participate in CIF, look at the Upcoming Events page at TreasureForest.org for details on the next event. Also, look for our ad in the upcoming edition of Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." So, buy your plate today and help us strengthen the youth of Alabama for their futures! Remember- we'll pay you back the \$50 for the first year too! For more details, go to TreasureForest.org. ▲



Bamboo

Benefit Or Boogyman?

By Nancy J. Loewenstein

Golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*), planted as an ornamental and historically used for fishing poles, is a familiar sight spreading around old homesteads. Sometimes confused with native river canes (*Arundinaria* spp.), golden bamboo is one of more than 1,000 species of large woody grasses generally referred to as bamboos. With the exception of Alabama's native river cane, most species of bamboo are native to Asia, Africa and South America. Bamboos can range in size from short ground covers to timber bamboos such as moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys edulis*) which can reach heights of more than 75 feet and grow to more than 5 inches in diameter.

There are two major types of bamboo – clump forming and running. Bamboo stems emerge from a dense rhizome (underground stem) system which is generally located within the upper 12 inches of soil. The rhizomes of clumping bamboos have very little horizontal growth before they turn upwards and produce culms (stems). As a result, they spread fairly slowly. Most clumping bamboos are tropical, not very cold tolerant and generally do not grow well in temperate climates. In contrast, the rhizomes of running bamboos have significantly more horizontal growth and can send up multiple culms along the rhizome. Running bamboos tend to be more cold tolerant and spread more rapidly.

Bamboo has an interesting growth pattern. When culms emerge they elongate very rapidly. Technically this is redistribution of stored carbohydrates from the previous growing season and not new growth from current photosynthesis. Stems do not increase in

Running Bamboo



Clumping Bamboo



diameter over time but remain the same size as when they emerge. Likewise, stems do not increase in height after the first season. Stems do put on additional branches over time, thereby increasing the amount of leaves available for photosynthesis and growth of the grove. Self-shading will eventually limit this potential increase in photosynthesis.

Is bamboo invasive? Bamboos flower irregularly, sometimes decades apart. Therefore spread by seed is a minor concern but can't be completely ruled out. However, if not contained, running bamboos will run. Spread can exceed 15 feet a year. Golden bamboo and several other species of running bamboos are therefore considered invasive by many state invasive plant councils as well as the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences assessments (<http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu>).

Once established, bamboo is difficult to control. In open areas, plants can be dug up with heavy equipment as the rhizomes tend to be fairly shallow. Frequent cutting of the entire grove can reduce underground reserves and eventually control the stand. However, this could take some time depending on the species and grove health and size. Cut stems can also be treated with systemic herbicides such as glyphosate or imazapyr, but multiple applications are typically required. Foliar sprays may suppress growth but are difficult to apply to mature stands and rarely result in complete control. Granular formulations of imazapyr have been effective but must be used carefully due to potential non-target injury of other plants. In all cases, control is labor intensive.

Several methods are available for containing bamboo rhizome growth: physical barriers, trenching and removal of new shoots. Physical barriers involve burying a strong, non-biodegradable barrier around the perimeter of the grove. Rhizomes will turn and go back the other way when they hit the barrier; although they may grow up and over the barrier. In that case, the rhizome must be cut to prevent spread. Physical barriers typically cost several dollars a linear foot.

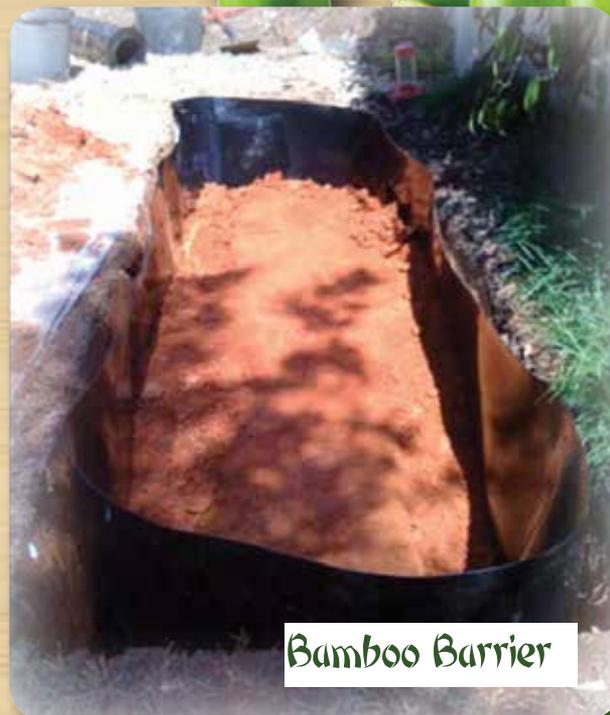
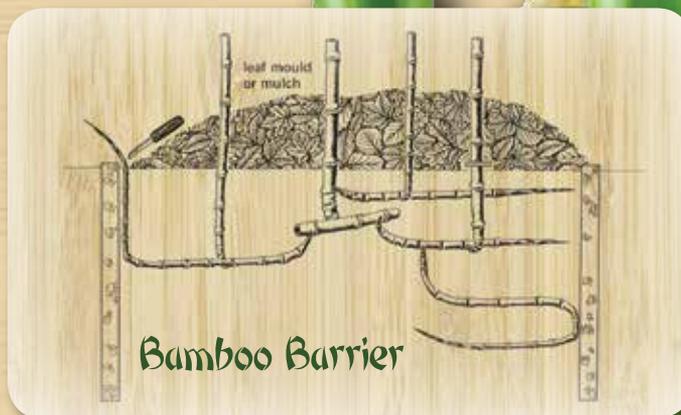
Trenching involves digging an open trench to the depth of the rhizomes around the perimeter of the grove. Rhizomes growing into the trench must be cut with clippers or a sharp spade. Trenches should be checked several times a year, especially during the spring and summer expansion period.

The third approach for containing bamboo is removal of new stems which are fragile when first emerging. Once a particular stem is removed, it will not grow back. Newly emerged stems can be kicked over, mowed or cut with a weed eater. Multiple removals may be needed depending on how uniformly the new stems emerge, which can vary with species, vigor of the grove and environmental conditions.

There are a few additional concerns with bamboo. Due to the dense shade and dense leaf litter produced by bamboo, little can grow in the understory. Minimal wildlife habitat is provided by bamboo groves. However, some bird species are known to roost in bamboo and the fungal lung disease histoplasmosis has been associated with birds roosting in bamboo. For this reason, be sure to wear a mask when working in bamboo stands.

In summary, bamboo is an intriguing plant but if not contained, running bamboos will grow beyond the area where initially planted. Once established, bamboo is very difficult to control. Caution is required when growing bamboo and the fate and maintenance of groves into the future must be a consideration.

Nancy J. Loewenstein, PhD works with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.





P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191-0001

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Association Leaders And Staff Contacts Information

President

John F. Farrow
Tallapoosa County
njfarrow@earthlink.net

Vice President

Billy Joe Johnson
Calhoun/Cherokee County
critterwoods@tds.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Lamar Dewberry
Clay County
ldewberry@centurytel.net

North Region

Danny F. Crawford
Limestone County
Danny.F.Crawford@gmail.com

John Sudduth
Winston County
Jmsudduth67@gmail.com

Central Region

Jimmy Jimmerson
Cleburne County
Jimmerson3@juno.com

Willey N. McCollum
Calhoun County
Mawnpaw49@gmail.com

Kathy McCrimmon
Calhoun County
mccrimmon@bellsouth.net

Gene Renfroe
Jefferson County
gene@earenfroe.com

Jana Renfroe
Jefferson County
jana@earenfroe.com

Southwest Region
Gary Cole
Monroe County
garymcole@gmail.com

Buddy Hall
Hale County

Meador Jones
Marengo County
metlin@bellsouth.net

Ed Travis
Mobile County
edward@edwardfravis.com

Dr. C.T. Vaughan Jr.
Sumter County
Docvaughan77@yahoo.com

Southeast Region

Tim Albritton
Elmore County
Tim.Albritton@al.usda.gov

Billy Blackwell
Dale County
Billyblackwell47@yahoo.com

Charlie Clark
Crenshaw County
Charles.clark@al.usda.gov

Carol A. Dorrill
Pike County
dorrillgrp@aol.com

Richard F. Hill
Elmore County
Rphil1945@gmail.com

Staff

Rick Oates
Montgomery County
roates@alfafarmers.org

Boyd Christenberry
Bchristenberry1@alfafarmers.org

Upcoming Events

- June 15** Shortleaf Pine Field Trip; Double Springs
- June 18-19** Forestry & Wildlife School for Landowners; Munford
- June 20** Pike County "Take a Kid Fishing" day; Clay Hill Farms
- July 30** Annual Alfa Commodity Conference; Montgomery (runs through Aug. 2)
- Sept. 1** Elmore County ATFA Off Grid Electricity presentation
- Oct. 16-17** ATFA Annual Conference; Alexander City; registration opens soon!

