



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

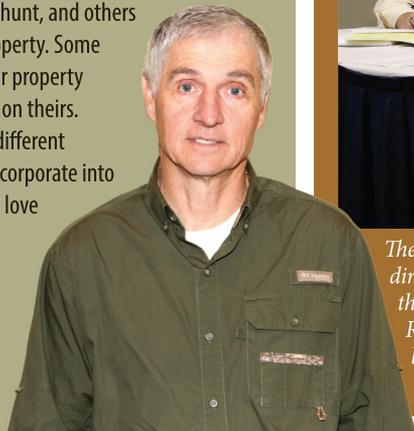
I am so humbled to serve as president of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) this year. My knowledge of TREASURE Forest began many years ago as the agriculture teacher and FFA adviser at Lineville High School. In Clay County, we have about 90 percent forestland, so teaching students about forestry was a perfect fit. I used a paperback book called "Developing Farm Woodlands in Alabama," published by the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Alabama Department of Education, to introduce students to forestry. The book had a chapter called "Multiple-Use Forest Management," which taught about TREASURE Forest Certification. From there, several students obtained Junior TREASURE Forest Certification from management practices completed on their property.

I learned as I taught the students about this great recognition program for forest landowners. I, too, wanted to own forestland. My wife and I hoped to one day own our own certified TREASURE Forest. This dream became a reality several years ago.

From our blessings, we wanted to share with others how to better manage property. We have hosted several educational tours and seminars for adults and have had Auburn University students visit to see how we manage our forestland. One of the greatest educational activities we host is for fifth-graders from county schools. It amazes me how many children from rural Clay County never touch, smell, see and enjoy a forest. I'm thankful ATFA and Classroom in the Forest encourage landowners to share their forest with others. Visit [TreasureForest.org](http://TreasureForest.org), talk to ATFA's William Green or visit with a TREASURE forest landowner who hosts Classroom in the Forest to learn more about this important program.

Our members make ATFA great. We're diverse in our forest management but our love for the forest is the same. Some members have 10 acres, some have over a thousand. Some members never plan to cut a tree, while others enjoy their forest's economic impact. Some hunt, and others photograph wildlife on their property. Some members enjoy the quiet of their property while others ride horses or ATVs on theirs. There are many reasons for the different forestry practices landowners incorporate into management plans, but they all love their TREASURE Forest.

ATFA President Lamar Dewberry



## Allen Interns With ATFA

College senior Gentry Allen joined the Alabama Farmers Federation staff Jan. 29 for an internship with the organization's Forestry and Wildlife divisions and Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA).

Allen's main responsibilities include work on natural resources related issues and updating ATFA databases. He interns through April 20.

"Growing up in Choctaw County gave me a great interest in forestry and wildlife," Allen said. "I am hoping to learn all the ways ATFA and both divisions contribute to maintaining and growing our state's forestland."

ATFA Executive Director William Green said Allen's work will help organize communications to and efforts of his organization.

"My goal is for Gentry to leave here with a better understanding of how forestry and conservation communities work together," said Green, who also directs the Federation's Forestry and Wildlife divisions. "Alabama boasts extensive natural resources, and we hope Gentry will soak up knowledge he can use in his future."

Allen is a 2014 graduate of Patrician Academy in Choctaw County and studies business administration at Huntingdon College in Montgomery. He played safety for Huntingdon's football team from 2014 to 2017.

He is the son of Steve and Beth Allen of Butler. Steve is a district manager with Alfa Insurance, and Beth is a nurse practitioner director for the State of Alabama.



Allen

## Board Lays Foundation For 2018



The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) board of directors met in Montgomery Feb. 7. They discussed the redesign of the ATFA's website through a grant from the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils, as well as upcoming events for children and adult landowners. From left are Jimmy Jimmerson of Cleburne County, Gene Renfroe of Pike County and Tim Albritton of Elmore County.

# New Sawmill Brings Jobs, Better Timber Prices To Southeast Alabama

A new lumber manufacturing facility in Pike County will have far-reaching effects for the regional economy, bringing 110 new jobs and more money for area timber owners.

Gov. Kay Ivey announced Feb. 28 that Rex Lumber Co. plans to build the state-of-the-art sawmill — a \$110 million investment, including startup and working capital. Annual production at the facility will be a minimum of 240 million board feet.

Rex Lumber currently operates three sawmills, two in the Florida Panhandle and one in Mississippi, producing 575 million board feet annually. This is Rex Lumber's third sawmill expansion in the last 17 years.

Pike County was chosen over sites considered in several other Southern states. Land clearing and other work on the 214-acre site is expected to begin immediately with construction set to begin June 1. Officials hope the mill will open in August 2019.

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's (ATFA) William Green said he's excited Rex Lumber chose Alabama for its new sawmill. He said the sawmill will use renewable natural resources to be sold throughout North America and beyond.

"This announcement, along with other recent forest product expansions in our state, is good news for Alabama's economy and the forest industry," said Green, the ATFA's executive director. "Our state is blessed with good climate and growing conditions for renewable forest products."

Pike County Commissioner Russell Johnson is co-owner of Coastal Plain Land and Timber in Pike County. He said the announcement is a new day for forest landowners in east central Alabama.

"I've been told that one mill job creates 20 ancillary jobs, from logging and



From left, Pike County Commission Chair Robin Sullivan, Commissioner Russell Johnson and ATFA Executive Director William Green discuss Rex Lumber's new sawmill.

trucking positions to people who sell supplies to those industries, plus fuel, tires, oil and insurance," Johnson said. "An industry like this has a huge trickle-down effect for Pike and surrounding counties."

The sawmill will produce Southern yellow pine lumber typically used for construction. Giving landowners a sawmill closer to their property reduces trucking costs, resulting in more money for their timber, Johnson said. Timber used for construction lumber typically fetches a better price than trees the pulp paper industry uses. The new mill is expected to need 600 tractor trailer loads of wood a week.

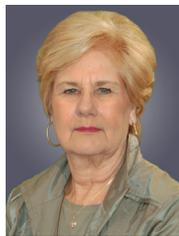
Rex Lumber ranks among the 10 largest softwood lumber producers in the U.S.

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## Forestry Commission Elects, Appoints New Leaders

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) promoted four leaders through recent elections and job advancements.



Russell

In January, Montgomery County landowner Jane Russell was elected chair of the AFC. Katrenia Kier of Madison County was elected vice chair.

Bruce Springer was appointed assistant state forester, effective Feb. 1.

Brigetta Giles was selected as Southeast Region forester to fill the role Springer vacated.

A past chair of the Alabama Farmers Federation State Forestry Committee, Russell was appointed to the seven-member commission in 2014. She is also former president of the Montgomery County Farmers Federation, where she served on the scholarship committee.

"Serving as chair is a privilege, and I take it



Kier



Springer

seriously," said Russell, a retired teacher who raises timber and cattle in Lapine with husband Tom. "I am so excited about the future of the forestry commission and am going to work hard to serve our foresters, rangers and the state of Alabama."

Kier was appointed to the commission in 2016. She owns Kier Real Estate LLC, a real estate brokerage firm in Huntsville established by her late husband, Richard Kier. She was two children.

Springer has over 26 years of service with the AFC, where he was appointed forester for the Southeast Region in 2005. The Ohio native and wife Virginia live in Thorsby.

In over 24 years with the AFC, Giles has held several roles on the county and state levels and was last a work unit manager for Autauga, Chilton, Lowndes and Montgomery counties. She and husband Jeff live in Plantersville.



Giles

# 10 Things To Know Before Thinning A Pine Plantation

Landowners often implement thinning, which stimulates growth of remaining trees. Thinning improves planted pines' economic rate of return, improves wildlife habitat and protects pine health. It should create more growing space for superior trees while removing smaller, poorly framed, damaged or dying trees.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Alabama Forestry Commission recommend landowners use professional foresters to coordinate timber harvest, including pine plantation thinning.

To learn more, visit [TREASUREForest.org](http://TREASUREForest.org) and access the thinning pamphlet from Forest Management Specialists, Inc.

## BEFORE THINNING:

### 1. Understand the stages in the process.

From initial consultation to the final compliance check, the forester is the landowner's agent during the harvesting process.

### 2. Do homework.

Minimum preparations include defining objectives for the thinning, outlining no-cut or partial cut areas, notifying hunters and securing access for the timber purchaser.

### 3. Recognize available thinning methods.

Age, health and spacing affect which thinning method is recommended.

### 4. Provide closing information.

After accepting and before closing an offer, the timber purchaser may request information to report the purchase to the IRS.

### 5. Understand the need for a survey.

Most consulting foresters advise all property lines to be surveyed and marked by a licensed surveyor to avoid claims of adverse possession, reduce hunting trespass and decrease timber trespass.

### 6. Secure access.

This is only a concern if the landowner's tract or a portion of the tract doesn't have direct access to a public road.

### 7. Discuss prior road conditions.

Most consulting foresters specify in the contract that all roads post-harvest will be in as good of condition as before harvest. However, heavy equipment might make it impossible to be restored exactly.

### 8. Plan to avoid visiting the logging site during active harvest.

Most consulting foresters advise landowners not to visit the logging site while harvesting equipment is being operated for the sake of safety.

### 9. Discuss landings.

Landings are typically 1/4-1/2 acre, look like small clear cuts and are where trees are sorted by product and loaded for transportation.

### 10. Understand the consultant's role regarding mitigating problems.

Most consulting foresters make every effort to ensure marketing, harvesting and sale closure proceed smoothly, but disruptions are possible. Know the forester's role in dealing with problems, per the contract.

# ForestHer Fuels Love Of Forestry For Female Alabama Landowners

**W**omen who love the land got hands-on with Alabama's largest commodity during ForestHer, a crash-course in forestry for females Feb. 20-21 near Ashland in Clay County.

Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) President Lamar Dewberry hosted the event on his certified TREASURE Forest in conjunction with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Alabama Forestry Commission.

Day 1 of the program touched on forestry terms, tools, federal assistance, wildlife and the forest products industry. Attendees, which ranged from local Clay Countians to landowners from Birmingham, headed to the woods on Day 2, where they broke out prisms and Biltmore sticks to survey and measure trees. Attendees studied trees during a dendrology walk to conclude the program, which Dewberry said he hopes encourages fellow landowners.

"Felicia and I enjoy sharing our property with others," Dewberry said. "We hope others can learn from what we do on our place and better their property."

Dr. Becky Barlow, an Extension specialist, echoed Dewberry.

"A participant told me she had not been to, or thought about, her property much and didn't miss it until she took our workshop," Barlow said. "Now she is motivated to do something to improve it."

Save the date for upcoming ForestHer events Sept. 18 in Autaugaville and Oct. 15 in Auburn. For more information, contact Barlow at rjb0003@auburn.



*ATFA President Lamar Dewberry, left, hosted a forestry field day for women on his Clay County property Feb. 20-21.*



*Attendees learned how to use prisms and Biltmore sticks to survey and measure timber.*

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