



ALABAMA TREASURE FOREST

Association Newsletter

In partnership with the Alabama Farmers Federation

July 2018

Vol. 4, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're at the midpoint of my term as Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) president, and I'm incredibly thankful for our accomplishments. In my last letter, I mentioned the importance of multiple-use forest management and how that principle formed the TREASURE Forest Certification program. As an association, our most important goals are to further the program by promoting good land stewardship and to educate landowners, children and the public on sound, science-based management.

I think you'll agree we've accomplished our goal this year. Since Jan. 1, we reached over 1,500 students and over 300 landowners through Classroom in the Forest and regional meetings. Thank you to those who opened your properties to students; that program succeeds because of generous volunteers. To start a Classroom in the Forest event, contact a state director or ATFA Executive Director William Green.

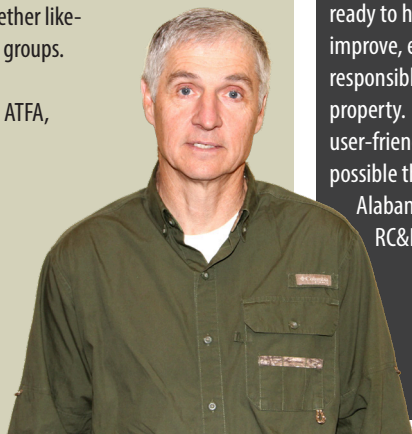
Our regional meetings have been successful, too. Thanks to Chuck Sykes of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for leading excellent presentations and discussion. It was good to see friends from different areas around the state, and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next round of meetings.

We also have several exciting new projects to announce. Thanks to the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils, we have a new website. Visit TREASUREForest.org for forestry news, event registration, photos, videos and more. Additionally, we revitalized our scholarship fund. This money will fund scholarships for students pursuing degrees in forestry, wildlife science and natural resource-related fields. Support the fund through direct donations and by purchasing an ATFA "I'd rather be in the woods!" license plate.

Lastly, plan to attend the 2018 Alabama Landowners Conference in Prattville Oct. 14-16. It's sure to be a fun, educational event bringing together like-minded, conservation-oriented groups.

Thanks for all you do for the ATFA,

Lamar Dewberry
ATFA President



Hunting Liability Insurance Now Available Through ATFA

Landowners and hunters can now zero in on cost-effective hunting lease and timberland liability insurance through the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA).

The ATFA's William Green said he's excited to introduce his organization's members to this insurance, which has a \$1-million coverage limit per occurrence. There is a \$2-million aggregate limit.

"We want our members to have peace of mind when land is leased to a hunting club or when uninvited guests visit their property," said Green, ATFA's executive director. "This insurance helps landowners economically protect themselves and their land."

ATFA's hunting lease liability insurance covers landowners, hunters leasing land and hunting club members. Insurance assets include greater land leasing flexibility for smaller timber tracts, increased income from land leasing operations, a reduction in the lease's total cost through broad coverage, condensed paperwork and an expedited lease process.

Timberland liability insurance is also available and protects landowners' assets from accidents that occur on privately owned timberland tracts. Under common law, landowners are required to provide specific degrees of care to protect invited — and uninvited — individuals on their property.

To learn more, contact Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org or (334) 612-5235.

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association is a partner of the Alabama Farmers Federation. Become a member at TREASUREForest.org.

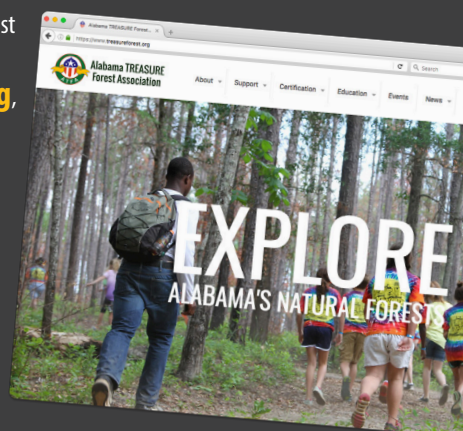
EXPLORE THE NEWLY OVERHAULED TREASURE FOREST WEBSITE!

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's website,

TREASUREForest.org,

is newly redesigned and ready to help landowners improve, explore and responsibly manage property. The streamlined, user-friendly site was made possible through an

Alabama Association of RC&D Councils grant.



FEATURES INCLUDE:

News, TREASURE Forest Certification details, membership application, event registration & meeting materials

Visit www.TREASUREForest.org to join the ATFA.

GOALS FOR SEEDLING GROWTH IN YEAR ONE

Investing in high-quality tree genetics can result in increased profits, but help from landowners is still key. Like any quality product, special treatment is required to realize maximum potential. Practicing good silvicultural methods will help landowners reap rewards with superior growth and stem quality in their trees — and a better return on investment.

Goals for seedlings in their first year of growth:

- ⇒ Rapid establishment of root system throughout the soil profile
- ⇒ Terminal buds above competing vegetation and animal browse-line
- ⇒ Quick seedling growth (in height and stem diameter) in order to resist and withstand insects and other damaging agents such as fire, deer, wind, hail and ice.



Visit **TREASUREForest.org** for a more in-depth look at seedling care.

"You have your seedlings planted. Now What? 10 Most Important Goals for Year One©" is used with permission from ArborGen®. Learn more at supertreeseedlings.com.

10 TIPS TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS

1. Apply herbicides to control weeds — the No. 1 enemy in a pine seedling's first year. Inspect the stand in late May or early June for weeds, even if herbicide was applied in late winter or early spring.
2. Ask a professional which herbicide will achieve control desired for a specific location. They can also help choose the appropriate application method and time.
3. Inspect the planting site for emerging pines from seeds left after harvesting. These are harder to control and require directly spraying herbicide on the volunteer pine seedlings without spraying newly planted seedlings.
4. Don't let seedlings become deer food. Monitor closely for signs of heavy browse on winter shrubs and vines near seedlings.
5. Inspect seedlings periodically to insure no pales weevil activity is present. Look for stem girdling at the soil line on seedlings that show symptoms of yellowing or wilting.
6. Protect the terminal bud (located at the end of a limb marking the completion of that year's growth) from tip moth larvae. The best time for treatment is at planting.
7. Test soil for phosphorous. Follow recommendations for fertilization at planting.
8. Conduct dormant season foliage analysis to help diagnose when fertilization is needed. If soil is coarse and sandy, or if scalping is applied during or before planting, nitrogen fertilization may be required.
9. Don't let domestic animals, such as cattle, trample seedlings. It's best to exclude domestic animals from newly planted forests for the first two years.
10. Monitor seedlings throughout the summer for issues that may arise.

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Advantage

Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) members are stewardship-minded men and women dedicated to improving forests in Alabama and beyond. TREASURE Forest lands are managed for wildlife habitat, pine and hardwood timber resources, clean water, recreation and scenery.

Through multiple-use management, Alabama — and her landowners — benefit. The future of Alabama's forests rests in the hands of landowners and like-minded individuals who support them, so ATFA's goal is simple: Teach others about responsible forest management.

Since the Alabama Forestry Commission began the TREASURE Forest Program in 1974, air and water quality as impacted by forests has improved; more trees have been regenerated and harvested; many species of wildlife are healthier; and Alabama's environmental and economic well-being is significantly better.

Why join the ATFA?

- ▷ Landowner workshops, tours and conferences
- ▷ Eligibility for the ATFA's Forest Stewardship Council Group Certificate
- ▷ Membership in the Alabama Farmers Federation
- ▷ TREASURE Forest Certification assistance
- ▷ Partnerships with various forestry and natural resources-related agencies and organizations

The ATFA is a partner organization of the Alabama Farmers Federation and is a 501 (c)3 non-profit, educational corporation.

To join the ATFA or learn more, visit **TREASUREForest.org**.

In Memoriam

John P. Mims, a Chilton County native, died April 4. He was 97.

A founding member of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, Mims was stewardship-focused and received the TREASURE Forest Certification, Helene Moseley Award and Alabama Natural Resources Council Lifelong Achievement Award. Mims was also a doctor, deacon and Samford University trustee.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Mary Bedford Rogers Mims. He is survived by son Shelton Park Mims (Kim); daughters Rosemary Fisk (Howard Walthall) and Emelyn Carlson (Terry); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has initiated a status review of 35 plant and animal species currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Several species included in the list can be found in Alabama. Access the full list at **TREASUREForest.org**. The status review is a five-year process assessing current scientific and commercial data.

SEMINARS STRESS THREAT TO STATE'S NATIVE WILDLIFE

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) held a series of regional meetings in May focusing on chronic wasting disease (CWD). Over 250 ATFA members and landowners learned more about this threat to Alabama's native wildlife from Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Chuck Sykes.

First classified in Colorado in 1967, CWD has spread to 25 states, Canada and South Korea. The most recently discovered CWD-positive animal was found in western Mississippi — the closest yet to Alabama.

In response, ADCNR Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) officials rapidly updated the CWD Strategic Surveillance and Response Plan (SSRP), which seeks to minimize CWD introduction into Alabama's white-tailed deer population. View the SSRP at OutdoorAlabama.com.



Over 250 Alabama landowners attended CWD seminars this spring.

Sykes highlighted the potentially devastating effects CWD, which is contagious and fatal, could have on Alabama.

"We want (people) to be informed that this is a serious issue," said Sykes, WFF director. "Dog hunting, baiting, night hunting and poaching pale in comparison to problems we'll have if CWD ever gets in the state."



ADCNR's Chuck Sykes shared information to help stop the spread of chronic wasting disease during seminars across Alabama.

CWD is similar in construction to bovine spongiform encephalopathy and affects only cervids — deer, elk, moose, reindeer, etc. Animals become infected through direct animal-to-animal contact, bodily fluids and contaminated habitats. CWD is not a virus or bacterial infection. There is no vaccine or cure.

No cases have been found in humans, and research supports a species barrier preventing human infection. Current regulations prohibit importing live cervids and whole carcasses from any state where CWD exists. Only deboned meat, cleaned skull plates, raw capes, upper canine teeth and finished taxidermy products can legally enter Alabama.

"This is not a dog hunter issue or a private landowner issue. This is a hunter issue," Sykes said. "Misinformation is running rampant out there right now. We need to get the right information out there."

Report activity concerning live deer transport, carcass importation or sick or abnormally acting deer at DCNR.SickDeerReport@dcnr.alabama.gov or (334) 242-3469.

CLASSROOM IN THE FOREST

Supporting Conservation Education In Alabama

ALABAMA FOREST

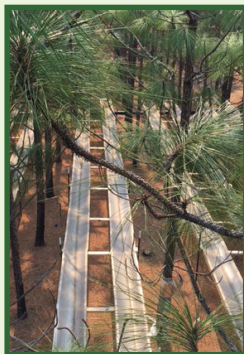
Alabama TREASURE Forest Association

I'D RATHER BE IN THE WOODS

Available at your local tag office. For more information, visit TREASUREForest.org or pros.mvtrip.alabama.gov to reserve yours today!

AUBURN STUDY SAYS LONGLEAF PINE FORESTS COULD BETTER RESIST DROUGHT

By Kristine Fedorenko, Auburn University



Auburn researchers are removing precipitation from longleaf forests to study drought effects.

Longleaf pine ecosystems may create more drought-resilient forests, according to a study Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station researcher Lisa Samuelson is conducting.

"Due to the challenges related to climate and water availability, a better understanding of ecosystem behavior is needed to improve the management and conservation of our forests," said Samuelson, an Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences professor. "The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of longleaf pines' role in creating resilient forests for the future."

Longleaf pine once was one of the most extensive forest ecosystems in North America, covering an estimated 90 million acres. Today, less than 4 percent of longleaf pine forests remain.

Samuelson said reduced longleaf communities incurred ecological consequences, including loss of plant and wildlife species. Besides preserving these species' habitats, rejuvenating the once-abundant pine may improve overall forest health because of its ability to withstand drought.

Samuelson's objective through research on an 11-year-old longleaf pine plantation in Marion County, Georgia? Explore longleaf pine's drought adaption patterns and its resilience in relation to its ecosystem.

"Our study is unique in that we are removing precipitation to study drought effects," she said. "Whereas most studies utilize irrigation to remove drought effects, we are creating drought."

Rainfall exclusion troughs catch precipitation and transport it away from the trees' roots, removing about 40 percent of water typically hydrating the experimental plots.

Keeping detailed records of soil moisture dynamics, the scientists examine above- and below-ground mechanisms that control tree growth and survival. The team monitors total tree health in the absence of hydration.

Soil moisture data will create predictability scales for regional and seasonal drought patterns, while tree-growth/health data contribute to developing parameters and models that simulate longleaf pine growth under varying climate and fire regimes.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Oct. 14-16 • Marriott Prattville