

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

ATFA Members,

I hope each of you are having a great summer — especially enjoying time spent with children or grandchildren. Following a damp first half of the year, many across the state are suffering through a dry, hot summer. When preparing your property for the fall, please keep your safety and the safety of those around you in mind.

I'm pleased to announce that at the last state board of directors meeting, we voted to adopt a mission statement that accurately describes our goals.

"The mission of the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association is to promote good forest stewardship, educate others about responsible forest management and improve the forests of our state and nation."

I hope you agree. Please know the board and staff strive to ensure those goals are accomplished each day. We look forward to carrying that mission through the second half of 2019, whether through our new scholarships, Classroom in the Forest, the Alabama Landowners Conference or regional personal applicator certification courses. Information on all programs can be found at TREASUREForest.org.

Lastly, if you are on file as a county leader, you should have received a packet in June from the state office. This packet contained many pieces of helpful information, from how to get insurance for an event to an annual report to share with your county. Also included was a request form where your county can receive a membership reimbursement of \$5 per member. This is a great way to fund county programs. If you did not receive a packet and think you should have, please contact William Green.

Thanks for all you do for the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

Gary Cole
ATFA President



ATFA Executive Director William Green, left, signed a scholarship agreement June 20 with LBWCC President Dr. Herbert Riedel and LBWCC Associate Dean Dr. Arlene Davis.

TREASURE Forest Scholarships Available

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) is now offering scholarships for students pursuing degrees in forestry or wildlife sciences.

Beginning this fall, ATFA will provide two \$1,000-scholarships to Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences students. In addition, two \$500-scholarships are available for Lurleen B. Wallace Community College's (LBWCC) Forest Technology program participants.

"The board of directors felt this was an outstanding opportunity to further the association's mission to promote, educate and improve," said ATFA Executive Director William Green. "I look forward to watching our relationships grow with future natural resources professionals while knowing the ATFA is playing an active role in developing leaders who will one day manage our state's forests."

Scholarships are funded through donations, sales of the "I'd rather be in the woods!" license plate and the ATFA's silent auction during the Alabama Landowners Conference. To apply, contact the respective school's financial aid office. To support the scholarship fund, contact William Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org.

Upcoming Events

CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER TRAINING COURSES

Certification Courses

Aug. 13-16 Auburn, AL | Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

Aug. 26-29 Stockton, AL | Stockton Civic Club

Sept. 17-20 Tuscaloosa, AL | Alabama Fire College

Recertification Courses

Aug. 12 Auburn, AL | Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

Sept. 16 Tuscaloosa, AL | Alabama Fire College

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Multiple dates and locations. Check TREASUREForest.org for more information.

Oct. 22-24 Prattville, AL | Alabama Landowners Conference (See page 3)

Check TREASUREforest.org for more events and additional information. To submit an event, contact William Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org.



Wildlife Trends

with Andy Whitaker



INSTALL NEW FOOD PLOTS OR EXPAND EXISTING ONES

From a landscape level, actively managing natural habitats should be one of the highest priorities for landowners desiring to enhance a property's wildlife value. Dedicating land to actively managing food plots astronomically increases wildlife value.

Because all properties are unique with habitat compositions, forest ages, diversity, timber management strategies, agricultural practices and management on neighboring lands, it's nearly impossible to provide a cookie-cutter amount of acreage that should be dedicated to food plots. However, if adding more acreage for food plots is in your plans, summer is a good time to create new ones or enhance existing plots.

I like to plan and mark or flag areas needing clearing during winter months while leaves are off, which allows me to see the area better. Another advantage is there are no snakes, ticks and chiggers to worry about. I come back in summer ready to do the dirt work.

I'm a big fan of using mulching machines when creating new food plots, expanding existing ones, expanding roadsides or creating new trails. A mulching machine, also referred to as a forestry mulcher, uses a rotary drum equipped with steel chipper tools (or teeth) to shred vegetation. Heavy duty forestry mulchers can clear up to 15 acres of vegetation a day depending on terrain, density and material. However, five to eight acres per day is realistic for most applications.

Using a mulcher allows a single machine to cut, grind and clear vegetation versus needing a dozer, backhoe and farm tractor to do the same job. Mulching is essentially a one-pass-and-done process. Because vegetation is ground into chips, there are no debris or root piles commonly associated with dozer clearing.

Another advantage is mulchers are capable of clearing land of unwanted trees and brush with limited disturbance to soils, which leaves more

nutrient-rich top soil and reduces risk of erosion. From a location and design standpoint, I always consider soil quality, hunting stand placement, preferred wind direction for hunting and hunter access, in addition to what the land, terrain and habitat naturally allow.

When possible, I create linear food plots. Deer, particularly mature bucks, feel more comfortable and secure using linear plots, which results in more sightings and harvest opportunities while hunting. Examples of linear plots include a "turkey foot," "V" or "wagon wheel" shape. When expanding existing rectangular food plots, I often add linear "ears" or "fingers" that extend from the core food plot area. In this situation, deer often enter the fingers first before working their way to the more open plot.

Regardless of how you clear the land or which shape you design, summer is a good time to conduct this work. Doing so allows plenty of time for working and amending the soil in preparation for fall plantings. ■

A day on the job *or just* a day in the woods...



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for the
Outdoors

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Green Visits Wilcox County TREASURE Forest



Alabama TREASURE Forest Association (ATFA) Executive Director William Green, right, visited Jamestican Parham, the organization's secretary-treasurer, June 27. They toured Parham's Wilcox County certified TREASURE Forest.



You don't want to miss out on this year's Alabama Landowners Conference!

Oct. 22-24



Welcome Banquet featuring Sean Dietrich

Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill
2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066-7737

Pre-Registration Required

Early-bird Registration Opens August 1

CONFERENCE TOPICS:

- ▶ Outdoor Business Opportunities – How to create alternative revenue on your property
- ▶ Economic & Legislative Updates
- ▶ Cogon Grass Management
- ▶ Coordinated Wild Pig Removal
- ▶ Mushrooms & Foraging
- ▶ The White Oak Initiative
- ▶ Management funding opportunities for private owners
- ▶ Project Learning Tree
- ▶ Landscape Management

Plus
LANDOWNER TOURS

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

- ▶ Welcome Banquet
- ▶ Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Breakfast
- ▶ ANRC Awards Banquet
- ▶ Tree Farm Breakfast
- ▶ ATFA Scholarship Fund Silent Auction



and more!

EXHIBIT SPACE IS AVAILABLE.



Learn more at TREASUREForest.org or
Contact ATFA's William Green @ 334-612-5235
or wmgreen@alfafarmers.org



Snap and Share! Send in photos of events on your TREASURE Forest to William Green at wmgreen@alfafarmers.org for a chance to be featured online and in the next ATFA newsletter.

Classroom In The Forest



Students from ABC Elementary in Alberta in Wilcox County attended Classroom in the Forest during the spring semester. Alex Brand, right, who works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, taught students about natural resource management during the field day.

ALABAMA FOREST FACTS

The most recent Forest Inventory Analysis proves what Alabama landowners already knew – the state's forests are some of the most productive in the nation.

- ▶ Alabama has **23 MILLION** acres of forestland, about **69%** of the state's area.
- ▶ Alabama **GROWS 2.58 BILLION CUBIC FEET** of wood annually and **HARVESTS 1.22 BILLION CUBIC FEET**.
- ▶ **OVER 80,000 ACRES** of non-forest **REVERT TO FOREST** annually.
- ▶ An Alabama acre is **10 TIMES MORE PRODUCTIVE** at growing tree volume than a Georgia acre.

More than **93%** of Alabama forests are **PRIVATELY OWNED**.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture



CLASSROOM IN THE FOREST

Supporting Conservation Education In Alabama



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

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