



## Meet ATFA Board Member Don Mann



Landowner Don Mann is an Alabama TREASURE Forest Association North Region board member.

**T**imber, Recreation, Environment, Aesthetics, Sustainable, Usable, Resources — TREASURE Forest landowners implement multi-use management practices like this to maximize sustainability.

Don Mann of Madison County knows firsthand what it takes to responsibly manage his forestland to ensure the next generation can enjoy the benefits he's gleaned from the land.

### Tell us about your TREASURE Forest and its management objectives.

DM: In 1998, my late father and I planted our first pine and hardwood stand across 75 acres. We engineered the land in a way that would allow us to plant food plots benefiting wildlife, while also growing timber. Growing

up, we hunted and fished often. It was important for us to designate land toward recreational use that our children and grandchildren can enjoy.

### Over the past 25 years, what challenges have you faced?

DM: Being on river bottomland, several acres are subject to flooding. Last year, we had 7 or 8 acres of corn ruin due to the rise of the river's water level. After battling beavers and trying to drain the land, we realized the wildlife benefits were tremendous. We saw more wood ducks, geese beds, crawfish and other small mammals gathered around the pond. Currently, we have a large population of blue herons.

### As a steward of the land, what conservation practices help your TREASURE Forest maximize sustainability?

DM: Our land is currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. We have several conservation practices in place to help stabilize the soil and lessen the effects of erosion. Our bottomland hardwood forest helps control flood levels, while shallow water habitat provides areas for waterfowl to nest. We also have riparian buffer zones along the bank of the river. This helps land settlement, reduces erosion and limits runoff into the river.

### What drives you?

DM: The satisfaction of being outside — enjoying what the good Lord above has created, from the fresh cool air in the wintertime to the roaming wildlife each summer and from the beautiful trees to the river flowing through our property. It's how I was born and raised. It runs deep in my blood. ■

ALABAMA AUDUBON presents the

BLACK BELT BIRDING FESTIVAL

JULY 29-30  
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FIELD TRIPS | TALKS | VENDOR EXPO

TICKETS | [alaudubon.org/blackbeltfestival](http://alaudubon.org/blackbeltfestival)

## 2nd Annual Black Belt Birding Festival Is July 29-30

Folks from across the state will flock to Greensboro July 29-30 for the 2nd Annual Black Belt Birding Festival hosted by Alabama Audubon, a branch of the National Audubon Society.

The festival is part of Alabama Audubon's Black Belt Birding Initiative, a project to highlight benefits of bird-based ecotourism for the Black Belt Region. There's an experience for everyone — from sunrise bird tours to connecting with nature. Attendees can also glean knowledge from keynote speakers at the festival's educational sessions.

Visit [alaudubon.org/event/2022-07-30/](http://alaudubon.org/event/2022-07-30/) to register or learn more or contact the Alabama Audubon Black Belt office at (205) 235-3108. ■



# Wildlife Trends

with Andy Whitaker



## PROPERTY PROJECTS



### Mend Water Woes

Most recreational properties need to control water levels or water flow in fishing lakes, duck ponds, beaver ponds, canals, swamps or marshes. Early summer — generally a drier period — is a good time to inspect these water-control systems.

Common issues to inspect include

- clogged pipes
- deteriorated culverts
- beaver dams
- broken or missing flash boards
- eroded banks
- problematic vegetation, such as willows
- broken valves or levers
- missing or damaged stakes
- broken beaver excluder fencing or cages
- damaged access docks or decks.

It's better to find and fix problems now rather than doing so after property is saturated during the wet season — or when a flood blows out weak components.



### Repair Deer Stands

Don't wait until the "fall bug" hits in September to repair deer stands. How many times have you made significant repairs right before hunting season? Me, too!

In many cases, repairs require oiling moving parts, replacing elements or painting. Whether you need to use WD-40 to quiet squeaks; add new tie wraps, pipe insulation or screening material; recover seat cushions; weld new pieces in place; or repaint shooting houses or ladder stands to prevent rust, most repairs result in "stinky," foreign odors.

By completing these repairs in early summer, stands have several months to air out before being placed in the woods for another hunting season. Because I primarily bow hunt, I even purchase and air out tie-down straps used to fasten stick ladders and lock-on bow stands so they are scent-free by fall.



### Prep And Plant Food Strips

Food strips are plots for turkey, quail and other birds that wind through fields and quail courses or along fire breaks and wooded habitat.

Most supplemental food plantings for quail are warm season crops and are established during spring and summer. Food strips are particularly beneficial when little native food is available. Egyptian wheat, sorghum-sudan, grain sorghum, brown-top millet, foxtail millet and pearl millet are great crops to plant in food strips. These do well in most of the Southeast.

Food strips should be rotated. In successive years, place new plots adjacent to the previous year's plot to create a mosaic of growth and stubble. Leaving the food plot stubble (or not disking and replanting in the fall) will provide game birds quality cover during fall and winter. ■

## Here's How YOUR County Benefits From ATFA!

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- FREE Event Liability Insurance
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Contact William Green to learn more: (334) 612-5235 or [wmgreen@alfafarmers.org](mailto:wmgreen@alfafarmers.org)





**AUBURN**  
College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Environment

# Auburn Approves College Of Forestry, Wildlife And Environment Name Change

By Jamie Anderson, Auburn University

The Auburn University Board of Trustees officially approved the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences' name change to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment April 22.

The college, formerly known as the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, was designated a college Feb. 22.

"Environment" was added to better reflect the breadth of academic, research, outreach and extension programs supported by the college, according to Dean Janaki Alavalapati.

Since 2016, the college has launched four new undergraduate degrees and several graduate

programs, including geospatial and environment informatics; sustainable biomaterials and packaging; and wildlife enterprise management.

**New minors will be launched this year to pair with its natural resources management degree and other programs on campus, including environmental law, coastal management, urban forestry, forest health and forest seedling nursery management.**

The college's research footprint has diversified to include environmental factors influencing forest and wildlife management, drought and climate

variability, and disease ecology, as well as forest health, conservation, and the economics and policy of natural resources.

The renaming demonstrates the college's strategic initiative to offer programs that integrate traditional disciplines with the growing field of environmental sciences, theories and problem-solving to meet emerging needs of industry and government.

"The name change will raise awareness of the college's expanded platforms among prospective faculty and students as a new perception of the college becomes established," Alavalapati said. "Just as important, we anticipate this change will enhance the college's visibility and competitiveness for extramural funding among its peer institutions." ■

# HUNTING LEASE LIABILITY INSURANCE

Have peace of mind knowing your land leased to a hunt club and all its members is covered for hunting activities and operations.

*(Must be a member of ATFA and Alfa Farmers to take advantage of this offer.)*

Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's (ATFA) hunting lease liability insurance\* provides liability coverage to:

- Landowners
- Hunt Clubs
- Employees
- Operations
- Invitees
- Members & Guests
- Agents
- Property

\*Insurance provided through Outdoor Underwriters, Inc., Columbia, S.C.

For more information, visit: [TREASUREForest.org](http://TREASUREForest.org) or contact Kaelin Lockhart at 334-613-4271 or [klockhart@alfafarmers.org](mailto:klockhart@alfafarmers.org).



# Auburn Hosts Cross-Laminated Timber Conference

By Gracen Carter, Auburn University

Auburn University hosted a cross-laminated timber (CLT) conference April 27-29, sponsored in part by the Alabama Farmers Federation.

The three-day event welcomed over 160 attendees from across the Southeast, who learned from experts in forestry, building sciences, engineering, and architecture and design about the latest CLT research, trends and developments.

CLT is a prefabricated panel made from wood stacked and glued crosswise in alternating directions to create pressed layers. This engineering gives the panels exceptional strength and strong fire protection while remaining lighter and creating less waste during installation than conventional alternatives, such as concrete and steel.

CLT is positioned to grow in the southern U.S., thanks to the region's abundance of Southern pine.

Speakers included Auburn Trustee Jimmy Rane, founder and CEO of Great Southern Wood Preserving Inc.

"We've got the land, we've got the timber, we've got the broader forest industry that puts these pieces together into a strong economic force and a value-added supply chain across the region and country," Rane said. "The forest industry is the largest capital



During the conference's final day, attendees took part in tours that showcased CLT manufacturing and construction in Alabama. One tour visited the SmartLam North America CLT manufacturing plant in Dothan, where participants learned how CLT is engineered and prefabricated to a project's exact specifications and requirements.

investor in many counties in our state and the largest employer throughout much of rural Alabama and across our region."

WoodWorks Regional Director Jeff Peters also addressed the crowd.

"In terms of advancing cross-laminated timber here in the South, I really think it's a massive education gap," Peters said. "One of the things we are doing at WoodWorks is trying to break down those barriers by increasing design teams, contractors and developers' knowledge on mass timber."

Peters also addressed the question of CLT cost.

"Currently, cost really depends on the complexity of the structure, it depends on the fire-resistance rating and the construction type, and it depends on multiple other factors," he said.

Students presented research on

diverse topics, from predicting the carbon content in wood samples to using fiber from reclaimed loblolly pine downed timber to renewable polymers for CLT protection coatings.

During the conference's final day, attendees visited the SmartLam North America CLT manufacturing plant in Dothan.

Another group toured Auburn's Advanced Structural Engineering Lab to learn about CLT structural testing research. Partially designed using CLT, this laboratory features a 4,700-cubic-foot geotechnical test chamber and a wind testing facility. The tour then visited the Hey Day Market at the Tony & Libba Rane Culinary Science Center. The 9,000-square-foot building houses a dining hall and business center and was constructed using CLT and glue-laminated timber. ■



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An advertisement for the Alabama Treasure Forest Association. The top half features the text "SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION" in large, bold, red letters on a wooden background. Below this, there is a photograph of children running in a forest, a license plate that reads "ALABAMA FOREST" and "I'D RATHER BE IN THE WOODS", and the ATFA logo. The bottom half contains text encouraging the purchase of "I'd rather be in the woods!" tags to support education and outreach efforts.

**SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION**

**ALABAMA FOREST**  
I'D RATHER BE IN THE WOODS

**PROMOTE • EDUCATE • IMPROVE**  
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TREASUREForest.org

Purchase an "I'd rather be in the woods!" tag and support education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the wonderful possibilities of sustainable land management.