



# AFA NEWSROOM

NEWS FOR ALABAMA'S FORESTRY COMMUNITY



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### AFA Newsroom V9 No. 11, June 1, 2014

#### Elections Have Consequences – VOTE June 3rd



The primary elections that will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd will have a major impact on the future of our state. As detailed in a recent post of AFA's In the Weeds blog, Alabama's teachers' union political action committee (AVOTE) has spent approximately \$7 million to defeat many conservative Republicans and replace them with other Republicans that would support AEA's agenda of bigger government and increased spending. .... [\(link to rest of article\)](#)

[Click here for ForestPAC Endorsements](#)

#### Help Us Find 2014 Logger of the Year

We need your help in finding Alabama's Outstanding Logger for 2014. The Alabama Loggers Council is now soliciting nominations for this prestigious award.

[Read more...](#)

#### Housing Starts Top 1 million Units in April

U.S. housing starts were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.072 million units in April, 13.2% ahead of the revised March estimate and 26.4% higher than the April 2013 rate, according to the Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

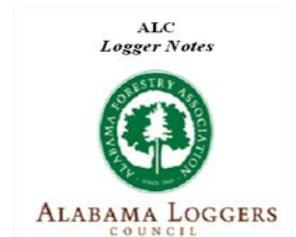


Single-family starts in April were at a SAAR of 649,000 units, 0.8% above the revised March figure. Housing units authorized by permits in April were at a SAAR of 1.080 million units, 8.0% higher than the revised March rate and 3.8% higher than the April 2013 estimate.

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#### Calendar of Events

Loading Events...



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Foresters & loggers click here for online education.

## A Few Good Loggers Needed for Logging Machine Operator Study

Loggers Needed! Stephanie Lynch, a student at Auburn University, is performing a study on logging machine operator activity. She is recording motion, path, and vibration during one shift. She is looking for logging crews to use in the study and can pay operators \$300 each.



ALABAMA LOGGERS COUNCIL

If you would like more information, please contact her directly at (205)613-5276 or [smlynch@auburn.edu](mailto:smlynch@auburn.edu).

[Read Logger Notes](#)

## Sawfly Spells **TROUBLE** For Pine Trees in Northwest Alabama

During the last few weeks, there have been numerous reports from Northwest Alabama about dying pine trees. Most of the visible damage is occurring on reasonably healthy, mature loblolly pines, growing in well-managed stands.



According to officials with the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), the apparent culprits are larvae of the loblolly pine sawfly, feeding on and defoliating pine needles.

[Read more...](#)

## U.S. Forest Products Lab to Develop Cheap Tornado Safe Room

MADISON, Wis. — Testing is being done in Wisconsin that could one day help reduce the number of fatalities from tornadoes.



"We actually get a fair number of tornadoes, and we're considered high risk," U.S. Forest Products Laboratory engineer Bob Falk said. Wisconsin gets about 23 tornadoes a year. Like most states, fatalities from them are usually caused by flying debris. Falk wants to build a better safe room, a room people can survive in without spending a lot of money.

"We're hoping that we'll be able to build this structure for about \$3,000," Falk said.

PHOTO: U.S. Forest Products Laboratory engineer Bob Falk stands in front of a machine that fires a 2x4 at 100 miles-per-hour into the wood safe room he has constructed behind him, simulating debris hurled by a tornado. Photo by JOHN HART — State Journal

[Read more...](#)

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## Disaster Unemployment Available for Alabama Workers Affected by Recent Storms

Self-employed and other individuals who lost work due to the April 28 through May 2 flooding and tornadoes may be eligible for disaster unemployment benefits.



If you live or work in Blount, DeKalb, Etowah, Mobile or Tuscaloosa counties, you have until

**June 9** to apply. Those in Baldwin, Jefferson, Lee and Limestone have until **June 3** to apply. To apply, go to [labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov). Or call 866-234-5382 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## 2014 National Tree Farmer Convention in Pittsburgh July 17-19



You're invited! Join Tree Farmers, woodland owners, and forest enthusiasts at the 2014 National Tree Farmer Convention featuring: a line-up of educational sessions on topics ranging from forest and wildlife management to the generational transfer of your land; a field day at Burnham Woodlot - Pennsylvania's 2010 Outstanding

Tree Farm of the Year; optional tours for you to discover some unique Pittsburgh experiences; and of course the chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

[Read more...](#)

## Capital and Delta Districts Hold Great Events

The Capital and Delta Districts held outstanding golfing events on May 20 and May 22, respectively. As he always does, Terry Bussey led his team to a



great outing at Montgomery's Lagoon Park, raising about \$29,000. Down in Chatom, Chuck Reynolds, his daughter Karen Sansing and son-in-law Glenn

Sansing, did a bangup job with their annual golf event at the beautiful Deerfield Golf Course, raising in the neighborhood of \$17,000-\$18,000.

Other sums raised so far this year includes \$10,250 brought in by Shannon White's annual sporting clays event at Selwood Farms, \$36,500 raised at Kimberly Fuller's Piedmont sporting clay/turkey shoot event and the annual Wiregrass Trail Ride organized by Angie Sherrill which raised \$6,140. Not a bad start as we near the halfway point of the 2014 fund-raising season.

Remaining events for 2014 include:

- **June 11.** Piedmont Golf Event, Jeff Gossett at Greystone near Birmingham. Contact Jeff Gossett at, (256) 268-2965 or, [jeff.gossett@resoluteftp.com](mailto:jeff.gossett@resoluteftp.com).
- **Sept. 19.** Annual Kronospan Event at Silver Lakes, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Contact: Jeremy Oliver at (256) 282-2559.
- **Sept. 20.** The Annual Archery Shoot sponsored by the Auburn University Forestry Club will be held at the Sportsman's Outpost in Waverly, Ala. Contact: Tom Gallaher, [tgallagher@auburn.edu](mailto:tgallagher@auburn.edu).
- **Nov. 7.** Westervelt Sporting Clays & Skeet Shoot, at Westevelt Lodge near Aliceville. Contact: George Franklin at, (205) 562-5699 or Lydia Fields at (205) 562-5482.

## Teachers Conservation Workshop set for Auburn July 14-17, 2014

The 2014 Teachers Conservation Workshop for Auburn is set for July 14-17, 2014 at the Hotel at Auburn University. The goal of the workshop is to help teachers and particularly agri-science teachers learn about forestry through programs on forest ecology, forest management and forest products.



[Read about the program and help sponsor a teacher today!](#)

## U.S. Senator Says Lawmakers Should Read Bills Before Voting on Them

U.S. Senator Rand Paul, R-KY, took to the floor of the U.S. Senate recently to decry a common theme: lawmakers and citizens do not have sufficient time to read bills before Senators must vote on them.

[View video...](#)

## EPA Water Regulations = Huge Land Grab, Opponents Say



Both Democrats and Republicans are in agreement on one thing: the current effort by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand the list of the types of land that holds water, over which EPA would have regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act, amounts to a huge expansion of federal power over private lands.

[View Report](#)

## Baldwin County Commission Seeks Citizen Input on Federal Water Rules

BAY MINETTE, Alabama — The Baldwin County Commission is holding a series of hearings during commission meetings to get input from the public about proposed changes to the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed changes to the act that would redefine what waters in this country are under federal control.

[Read more...](#)

## USFWS Seeks Public Comment on Critical Habitat for Plants in 5 States

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks additional public comment on proposed critical habitat for three plants found in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. About 2,488 acres on 30 parcels have been identified as habitat critical to the plants' survival.

[Read more...](#)

## Escambia County Forestry Field Day REMINDER!

The Escambia County Forestry Field Day will take place Thursday June 12, 2014 (9am – 3pm). Registration starts at 8am CST. The event will be held in Escambia County, Alabama near Brewton, at the Escambia Experimental Forest, Red Branch Road, Brewton, AL 36426.

Sponsors include: Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and USDA Forest Service. The fee for attending is \$30, which includes coffee snacks, lunches, and handouts. CFE's—4 Cat I and TWS Activities for the Certification Renewal/Professional Development Program—6.5 Cat I.

## Open Position in Alabama National Forests Announced

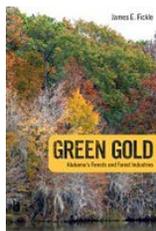


The National Forests in Alabama will soon be filling its Fire Management Officer (FFMO) position at the Supervisor's Office in Montgomery, Alabama. If you are interested, please apply using USAJOBS announcement number OCR-301-FFMO(M)-11/12DP or concurrent announcement number OCR-301-FFMO(M)-11/12G by June 20, 2014.

[Read Release/Application Document](#)

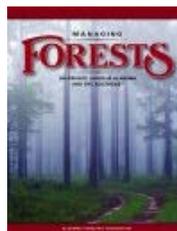
## Don't Forget About Great New Books on Forestry

We now have two books that you can use to learn more about forestland



management and the history of the forest products industry in Alabama. These books make outstanding gifts for birthdays, Christmas and any other gift-giving purpose. The book on the left, *Green Gold: Alabama's Forests and Forest Industries*, provides the first comprehensive history of forestry in

Alabama, from when the Indians cleared forests for agriculture to the modern era.



The book on the right, *Managing Forests on Private Lands in Alabama and the Southeast*, is probably the best book ever produced on managing forests for timber production and for preserving water and wildlife resources.

If you are interested in owning either or both of these books, contact Liz Chambers at (334) 481-2135 or [lchambers@alaforestry.org](mailto:lchambers@alaforestry.org).