



# AFA NEWSROOM

NEWS FOR ALABAMA'S FORESTRY COMMUNITY



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### AFA Newsroom V9 No. 12, June 15, 2014

## AFA Bandwagon Steams into the Mobile Delta for Regional Reception



The Alabama Forestry Association hosted its Delta District Meeting and Mobile Regional Reception recently at the Five Rivers



Conference Center. Although the evening was a bit muggy, guests arrived off the Causeway for an evening of fellowship,

good food and lively refreshments.

Tacky Jacks, a local restaurant catered the event and nobody went home hungry.

Prominent local members gathered to greet our local elected officials, including State Representatives Elaine Beech, David Sessions, Randy Davis, Alan Baker, James Buskey, Napoleon Bracy and newly elected Rep. Chris Pringle.



About 60 individuals attended the Regional Reception which is designed to give AFA the opportunity to thank our members in a pleasant social setting where they can see old friends, talk about timber issues, catch up on family events and frankly, just relax and enjoy a special evening. Another objective, of course, is to provide a setting where we can invite prospective members to come check us out. The receptions also allow us the opportunity to talk to local officials about the issues that are important to our industry.

**Photos:** Above left, Earl Flowers, Jim Heath and Fred Stimpson enjoy a chat. In the middle photo Edward Travis and Gray Skipper do some catching up. In photo above right, newly minted State Representative Chris Pringle talks about politics with AFA Board member Virginia MacPherson.

## Lockaby Named Interim Dean AU School of

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Logger Notes

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## Calendar of Events

Loading Events...



## Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

AUBURN – Graeme Lockaby, associate dean of research in Auburn University’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, has been named interim dean of the School, announced today by Provost Timothy Boosinger.



“Dr. Lockaby will provide excellent leadership for the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences,” Boosinger said. “He has been at Auburn for 28 years and is a nationally respected authority for his work in forest sustainability.” A national search will begin in July for a permanent dean. Lockaby succeeds Jim Shepard, who is returning to the faculty fulltime as a professor.

Lockaby, who has worked at Auburn University since 1986, is director of the school’s Center for Forest Sustainability and is the Clinton McClure Professor of Forestry. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forestry at Clemson University and his doctorate in agronomy at Mississippi State University.

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## EPA Extends Comment Period for Water Rule

The U.S. EPA on Tuesday, June 10, said it would allow farmers, ranchers and other interested stakeholders more time – until Oct. 20 – to comment on its proposed definition for waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

The extension adds nearly three extra months to the comment period, which was scheduled to end July 21. Comment on the interpretive rule governing agricultural exemptions that accompanied the Waters of the U.S. rule will be extended from June 5 to July 7.



[Read more...](#)

## U.S. Senate Committee Votes To Suspend Funding for HOS “Restart” Rule

On June 5, the full U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee voted to suspend funding to enforce the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s new Hours Of Service “restart” provision, pending results of a one-year study to validate FMCSA’s basis for that provision. [Read Logger Notes](#)

## We **STILL** Need Your Help Finding the 2014 Logger of the Year

We still need your help and suggestions in finding Alabama’s Outstanding Logger for 2014. The Alabama Loggers Council is now soliciting nominations for this prestigious award. [Read more...](#)

## Tree Farm Inspector Training Workshop Set for July 2, 2012 in Huntsville

A Tree Farm Inspector Training Workshop will be held on July 2, 2014 at

the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, office in Huntsville,



Alabama. The training is for forest resource professionals interested in becoming a certified Tree Farm Inspector or for former Inspectors who need to update their credentials to the 2010 Tree Farm Standards of Sustainability. It will be held from 9 AM until 1 PM.

Three CFE credit hours will be awarded to attendees completing the workshop.

The ACES office is called the Charles Stone Agricultural Center and is located at 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville, AL 35801. [Click here for map](#). To register, complete the online registration form at [alaforestry.org](http://alaforestry.org) or contact Karen Boyd at 256-810-6807 or [kboyd@alaforestry.org](mailto:kboyd@alaforestry.org)

## Calling for Alabama Tree Farmer of the Year Nominations

Each year, the Alabama Tree Farm Committee recognizes superior stewardship of its Tree Farm members through the Alabama State Farmer of the Year Award. These landowners are chosen for their remarkable efforts to demonstrate, communicate and spread sustainable practices. The winner will be recognized at the annual Alabama Natural Resources Council Awards Banquet scheduled for February 6, 2015. To nominate a Tree Farmer for their outstanding efforts, please visit [www.alaforestry.org/treefarm](http://www.alaforestry.org/treefarm) and download the State Tree Farmer of the Year Nomination Form. The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2014.

## API Reports on Obamacare's Impact on Alabama Workers



workers.

The Alabama Policy Institute, a conservative think tank located in Birmingham says if the Affordable Care Act, AKA, Obamacare, is fully implemented it will reduce jobs and in the amount of income earned by Alabama

[Read more...](#)

## SFI Meeting Set in Canada

Washington (D.C.), Ottawa, ON – In celebration of Canadian Environment Week, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI®), announced it will bring together stakeholders across a broad spectrum – from landowners to brand owners – to discuss and determine actions related to our most important issue globally – our forests. The SFI



Annual Conference will be held September 16-18, 2014 in Montreal, Canada and will address green building, advancements in forestry research and other emerging forest issues that help shape North America's future forests.

[Read Release](#)

## New Process Makes Wood Fibers Stronger than Steel

A Swedish-German research team has successfully tested a new method for the production of ultra-strong cellulose fibres at DESY's research light source PETRA III. The novel procedure spins extremely tough filaments from tiny cellulose fibrils by aligning them all in parallel during the production process. The new method is reported in the scientific journal

Nature Communications, making them stronger than aluminium and steel.

[Read more...](#)

## Alabama Ranks 38th in the Country in State Gas Tax Rate

California is in 1st place with the highest gas tax rate of 52.89 cents per gallon, and is followed closely by New York (49.86 cents/gallon), Connecticut (49.3 cents/gallon), and Hawaii (48.05 cents/gallon). On the other end of the spectrum, Alaska has the lowest rate at 12.4 cents per gallon, but New Jersey (14.5 cents/gallon) and South Carolina (16.75 cents/gallon) aren't far behind. These rates do not include the additional 18.4 cent federal excise tax. Alabama's state tax rate is \$20.87 a gallon which ranks the state #38 nationally. [Read more...](#)

## Ag Commissioner Puts "No Sale" Order on Certain Oil Products

Montgomery, AL – The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' Weights and Measures Division has issued a "NO SALE ORDER" on certain pre-packaged motor oils currently offered for sale in Alabama. [Read more...](#)

## 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 Piedmont District held its annual golf tournament on June 11 and, by all accounts, had a great turnout on a day that threatened rain but turned



out beautiful at the Greystone course in Birmingham. (We will give a full report on this event in later editions).

Remaining events for 2014 include:

- **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 Westervelt 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!](#)

## Don't Forget About Our 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).