



AFA NEWSROOM

NEWS FOR ALABAMA'S FORESTRY COMMUNITY



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AFA Newsroom V9 No. 7, April 1, 2014

Two New Members Added to the Alabama Forestry Commission



The two newest appointments by Governor Robert Bentley to the Alabama Forestry Commission recently began their terms. Jane T. Russell of Lapine and Jerry M. Dwyer of Auburn attended their first Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 18.



"We are pleased to welcome these two new individuals with the professional and personal forestry experience that Mrs. Russell and Mr. Dwyer bring to our agency as commissioners," said State Forester Greg Pate. "Their combined knowledge and leadership abilities will be an asset in continuing the AFC mission."

The terms of service for Mrs. Russell and Mr. Dwyer will run for five years from the date of their appointments. Our congratulations to the new board members. We wish them and all of the other commissioners, and new State Forester Greg Pate, well in the weeks and months ahead.

Fundraiser Set for State Ag Commissioner at AFA Building April 2nd

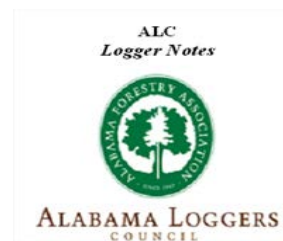


State AG Commissioner John McMillan, who served as leader of the Alabama Forestry Association for over 20 years before being elected Ag Commissioner, will be attending the "John McMillan Block Party for his 2014 reelection campaign from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2nd, on the grounds of the AFA Office Building at 555 Alabama Street in Montgomery.

The event carries a "suggested contribution of \$100" for

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Calendar of Events

Loading Events...



attendees and will feature live music and food, lots of food. Beef will be provided by the Alabama Cattleman's Association and fresh gulf seafood will be prepared and cooked by the Alabama Seafood Association.

This is one political gig you don't want to miss. Live entertainment, outstanding food prepared by outstanding cooks in the parking lot at the AFA Office in Montgomery. So come on, we'll put another shrimp on the grill just for you! [Read More...](#)

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AFA Wins FRA 2nd Place Tech Writing Award for Architect's Tour

Roanoke, VA – On March 12, the Forest Resources Association's Southcentral Region honored Chris Erwin, of the American Forest Foundation (formerly with the Alabama Forestry Association) and the Alabama Forestry Association in Montgomery, Alabama, with its Second Place Technical Writing Award for 2014. This annual Award recognizes the best serial publications from FRA's quarterly magazine, the Forest Operations



Review.

Chris and AFA Communications Director Sam Duvall co-authored the Technical Release which resulted in the award. Chris and Duvall attended the ceremony to accept the award, given jointly to AFA and Erwin who managed the Architect Tour program for AFA before he went to work with AFF. [Fra Tech Writing Award Release](#)

In the Photo: Chris Erwin (left), American Forest Foundation, and Sam Duvall, Alabama Forestry Association Communications Director (center), receive FRA's Southcentral Region Second-Place Technical Writing Award from Region Vice Chairman Gary Beacher.

NCASI Wants Your Help with Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Survey

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was recently petitioned to list the eastern diamondback rattlesnake as a threatened or endangered species. The eastern diamondback was historically found in the lower Coastal Plain from North Carolina to Louisiana. As the Service reviews the status of the eastern diamondback, the National Council for Air & Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI), a non-profit research center that provides technical information on environmental issues for the forest products industry, has developed a survey and is gathering data to improve understanding of its distribution and habitat associations.



The primary objective of the survey is to document the range of forest conditions occupied by eastern diamondback rattlesnakes. NCASI will collect survey responses through December 31, 2013, and then analyze results and provide a report to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. [Read more...](#)

Which States Get the Most Money From the Federal Government?

Delaware residents, who voted overwhelmingly for President Barack Obama in 2012, get 50 cents in federal funding for every \$1 in federal income taxes they pay, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Mississippi — 55.5% for Mitt Romney — cashes in with \$3.07 in federal funding for every dollar paid in income taxes. [Read the report](#)

Update on State Income Tax Rates for 2014



Income taxes are a major, and often complicated, component of state revenues. Furthermore, unlike sales or excise taxes which individuals pay indirectly, income taxes are levied directly on individuals, meaning that income taxes figure especially prominently in any discussion of tax burdens and public policies.

[Read more...](#)

Federal Government Backs Use of Wood for Skyscrapers

The federal government is promoting an alternative building material for skyscrapers that's as strong as steel or concrete, but with a smaller price tag and environmental footprint.

The miracle product? Wood. [Read more...](#)

Potlatch CEO Talks About Changes in Forestland Ownership and Markets



Mike Covey, CEO of Potlatch Corporation, recently spent the day in Missoula meeting with University of Montana College of Forestry and business students, faculty, and community members, then concluded his day with an hour-long lecture to over 200 folks on "The Transformation of Timberland Ownership and Markets in North America."

PHOTO: Mike Covey was regional manager for Plum Creek Timber Company when this picture was taken at the company's new medium density fiberboard plant at Columbia Falls, Montana in 1996. Mr. Covey has since moved on and is now chairman, president and chief executive officer of Potlatch Corporation. Potlatch was the Intermountain West's largest vertically integrated forests products company until it sold its manufacturing facilities and became a real estate investment trust. It owns 1.6 million acres of timberland in Idaho, Arkansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

[View Presentation](#)

The Latest News For the Forest Products Industry

For the latest Forest Products Report from the Forest Products Society, [click here](#).

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Urges Early Registration



WASHINGTON, March 21, 2014 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia today recommended that farmers and ranchers who plan to participate in FSA programs register in advance. Producers are encouraged to report farm records and business structure changes to a local FSA Service Center before April 15, 2014.

[Read more...](#)

New Farm Bill "Opportunities" Cited by Feds

WASHINGTON, March 24, 2014 — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced increased opportunity for producers as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill. A fact sheet outlining modifications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Programs is [available here](#).

Who Will be the 2014 "Logger of the Year" in Alabama?

By ALC Director Ray Clifton

The Alabama Loggers Council is now soliciting nominations for this prestigious award. The objectives of the award are to:

1. Recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance;
2. Increase the visibility of these fine professionals within the forestry community;
3. Encourage other logging contractors to strive for excellence;
4. Improve forester-logger-landowner relations by recognizing that outstanding logging is an essential element of sustainable forestry.



[Read Logger Notes...](#)

This is Ray's Last Logger Notes for AFA Newsroom



It is with sadness that we acknowledge a transition for Ray Clifton, whom we feel has been doing an outstanding job as Director of the Alabama Loggers Council, back to work in private industry.

We will miss Ray's acerbic wit and sense of fun in the Montgomery office, but plan on continuing to see him out in the field and at meetings in Montgomery.

Ray, who is also a very good writer, has agreed to continue to write stories from time-to-time for *Alabama Forests*. We wish Ray, his lovely wife Becky and their two sons all the best in this new venture.

PLM Initial Training Course Set April 16 and 23, 2014 in Birmingham



The 2014 Professional Logging Manager (PLM) Initial Training Course will be held at the Thompson CAT Tractor Company in Birmingham on April 16 and 23. Both sessions are required to earn the PLM designation. Each program will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m.

To download a flyer for this event , [click here](#).

Forestry Field Day Set for Escambia County

A Forestry Field Day will be held on the Escambia Experimental Forest, June 12, 2014. Plan to attend this informative forestry field day at the Escambia Experimental Forest just south of Brewton, Alabama on June 12. Topics include natural and artificial regeneration techniques, forest inventory and mapping for woodland owners, wildlife management opportunities, pine straw production potential, and the use and benefits of prescribed fire. Participants will receive reference materials and lunch on site. Cost \$25/person. Fee increases to \$30 after June 1, 2014. CFE's—TBA and TWS Contact Hours—TBA. For more information, contact Becky Barlow at becky.barlow@auburn.edu or 334-329-0554. See: <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/gwcal/day.php?yearID=2014&monthID=6&dayID=12>

2014 Log a Load Program About to Shift into High Gear

With spring in the air, it's time to get ready for Log a Load for Kids 2014. So



far, we have eight Log a Load events set for the 2014 fund-raising year. Most of these are repeats although at least one of the events has been changed from a

"turkey shoot" to a "skeet shoot." This latter event is the Piedmont event that will be the first event of 2014 at the Oaks located near LaFayette, Ala.

Here are all of the events we are pretty sure of for this year:

- **April 5.** Skeet Shoot at the Oaks, near LaFayette, Ala. Contact: Kimberly Fuller at (706) 590-0291 or kimberlyfuller@knology.net.
- **May 2.** Skeet Shoot Shannon White, Selwood Farms. Contact: Shannon White, at (256) 207-0166 or via email at swhite@sizemore1949.com.
- **May 3** Trail Ride, Angie Sherrill, near Abbeville, Ala. Contact: Angie Sherrill, Angela.Sherrill@CHSYS.org.
- **May 20.** Capital District Golf event at Lagoon Park Course, Montgomery, Ala. Contact: Terry Bussey at (334) 855-5981 or, terry.bussey@MWV.com. For [Terry's flyer](#), [click here](#).
- **May 22.** Golf at Deerfield in Chatom, the Reynolds family. Contact: Karen Sansing, shaysansing@yahoo.com.
- **June 11.** Piedmont Golf Event, Jeff Gossett at Greystone near Birmingham. Contact Jeff Gossett at, (256) 268-2965 or, jeff.gossett@resolutefp.com.
- **Sept.19.** Annual Kronospan Event at Silver Lakes, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Contact: Jeremy Oliver at (256) 282-2559.
- **Nov. 7.** Westervelt Sporting Clays & Skeet Shoot, at the Westervelt Lodge near Aliceville. Contact: George Franklin at, (205) 562-5699 or Lydia Fields at (205) 562-5482.

WFF Announces 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan Revision: Public Comment Requested

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) announces the revision

process of the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). By Congressional State Wildlife Grant (SWG) requirements, this comprehensive document must be revised every 10 years. The federal SWG program assists state fish and wildlife agencies in the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). To remain eligible for SWG funds, each state must revise its SWAP every 10 years. [Read more...](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

- Position: **Sustainabiity Forester**
- Company: **Green Circle Bio Energy** Cottondale, Fla.
- Job Description: **Click here**