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AFA Newsroom V9 No. 9, May 1, 2014

Southern Region Sees Greatest Investment in Capital Improvements for Forestry

Capital investment activity in U.S. forest industry capacity continues to increase. Announcements from 2013 alone include investments and reopenings of sawmills, OSB plants, and plywood facilities. This snapshot captures the overall trend in Forisk's research of capital assets: forest products firms leverage existing assets to close the gap while adding new capacity to meet current and expected end product demand.

In 2013, 26 companies made over \$2.1 billion in capital investments at 35 facilities in the U.S. These facilities include 21 sawmills, 4 OSB/panel facilities, 3 plywood facilities, and 7 pulp/paper mills. Regionally, 66% of the projects by count occurred at facilities located in the South. Source: FORISK

[Read more...](#)

Biomass Fuels Threatened by Political Uncertainty

Recent scientific breakthroughs can deliver the next generation of biofuels, but will political uncertainty hold up industry's most promising projects? Early this year, US researchers unveiled a very simple chemical treatment that could release – literally – a vast resource of renewable energy.

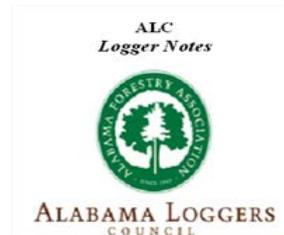
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Chris Erwin Recognized for Tree Farm Service at 2014 ANRC Banquet

By Ken McNabb and Allen Varner

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Calendar of Events

Loading Events...



The Doug Link Leadership Award this year was given to Chris Erwin by the Alabama Natural Resources Council (ANRC). Chris works for the American Forest Foundation in a job he took after working for the Alabama Forestry Association for over 10 years. The award is given to an individual who has significantly contributed to building Alabama's Tree Farm program.



Chris was chosen as recipient for his dedicated service as Alabama's Program Administrator over the past six years. Generally recognized as the "driving force" behind many recent Tree Farm activities, he has also been a strong supporter and advocate of Project learning Tree, the Teacher Conservation Workshops, the AFA Architectural Tour, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. His talents and dedication will be sorely missed as he moves on to his new job with the American Forest Foundation.

Chris is pictured above left, receiving the award from Paul Hudgens at the 2014 Awards Banquet at the Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center on Friday, February 7.

Dr. Parker is the 2014 Tree Farmer of the Year

This year's Alabama Natural Resources Council (ANRC) banquet saw the presentation of several Tree Farm Program Awards. One of the most anticipated of these is the "Tree Farm Family of the Year." Two previous winners of the Alabama Tree Farm Family of the Year Award went on to also win the regional and national Tree Farm Family of the Year, so Alabama has a proud history in this program.



This year's winner of the Alabama Tree Farm Family of the year was the Dr. Robert Parker family of Elmore County. A special video prepared by Kelvin Daniels and Paul Hudgens of the AFC presenting was shown during the ceremony. This beautiful video presented the many activities of the Parker property management including hardwood establishment and management, a very active prescribed burning program, on-site individual tree harvesting and sawing, heritage trees, and even highlighted Dr. Parker's unique wooden bowl-making talents.

PHOTO: Dr. Robert Parker, center, has his grandson Will Parker in front of him, with son Tom Parker, left. At right is Paul Hudgens, State Tree Farm Chairman.

Helene Mosley Award Given to Charles Holmes and Family

The Helene Mosley Memorial Treasure Forest Award seeks to recognize outstanding TREASURE Forest owners who not only manage their forest land with multiple-use objectives in an exemplary fashion, but also dedicate their energies and avail their property to educate others in their community about proper forest stewardship.

This year's winner of the HMMTF Award

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was Mr. Charles Holmes (fifth from left in photo) and family of Perry County. Not only are the Holmes' TREASURE forest owners actively engaged in forest management for timber, wildlife, and recreation, part of their property has been certified as a Century and Heritage Farm by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry.

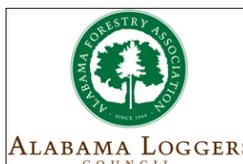
The Holmes family has hosted a number of educational programs on their property including "Fall in Folsom," federal agency training tours, a television show, and the Boy Scouts of America.

New IRS Rules on Depreciation + Logging Cost Analysis

By Ashley Smith

New IRS Rules on Depreciation

The article attached to *Logger Notes* was included in the April 2014 edition of Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association magazine. New IRS rule changes may require an accounting method change; please seek professional assistance as needed.



Logging Cost Analysis Course by UGA

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Continuing Education Program will hold two Logging Cost Analyses courses in July. One will be in Shreveport, Louisiana on July 9 - 10, 2014 and the same course will be taught in Columbia, South Carolina on July 15 and 16. For more information and to register for an upcoming course, please visit their website: <http://conted.warnell.uga.edu/>.

[Read *Logger Notes*...](#)

Don't Forget Shannon White's Sporting Clays Event at Selwood Farms This Friday



Kimberly Fuller's fantastic sporting clays/turkey shoot near LaFayette is being followed this Friday by Shannon White's Annual Sporting Clay Event at the beautiful course at Selwood Farms. If you like to shoot and you appreciate attention to detail, you will love this event on Friday, May 2, 2012. See details below:

- **May 2.** Skeet Shoot Shannon White, Selwood Farms. For a registration form, [click here](#). To be an event sponsor, [click here](#). 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.
- **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 Gallagher, 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.

Wood Pellet Production Doubles Due to European Demand

Europe's boom in biomass demand has led to a doubling of wood pellet exports from North America in just two years to reach 4.7 million tons in 2013, according to the latest data.



North America exported wood pellets valued at over 650 million dollars in 2013, a dramatic increase of more than 250 percent in just two years, according to new research released by the North American Wood Fibre Review.

The US South shipped almost three million tons last year, which was almost two-thirds of total export volume from North America. [Read more...](#)

Using More Wood for Construction Can Reduce Carbon Emissions and Fossil Fuel Use

A Yale University-led study has found that using more wood and less steel and concrete in building and bridge construction would substantially reduce global carbon dioxide emissions and fossil fuel consumption.

Despite an established forest conservation theory holding that tree harvesting should be strictly minimized to prevent the loss of biodiversity and to maintain carbon storage capacity, the new study shows that sustainable management of wood resources can achieve both goals while also reducing fossil fuel burning. The results were published March 28 in the Journal of Sustainable Forestry.

[Read more...](#)

Still Time to Register for FRA Annual Meeting, May 7-9



A Who's Who of forest industry operators will be on hand for the Forest Resources Association meeting on May 7-9, 2014 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel at Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Already registered are a host of your colleagues, including loggers, foresters, and other wood supply chain professionals. To take a look at who's coming and what the program sessions will look like, [click here](#).

Your Tax Dollars at Work!



It's pretty unreal when you see it.

Your 2013 tax dollars — due on April 15 — went primarily to pay for government benefits.

Major entitlements (Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security) gobbled up 49 percent, while more federal benefits took another 20 percent. These additional “income security” benefits include federal employee retirement and disability, unemployment benefits, and welfare programs such as food and housing assistance. Obamacare spending didn't really kick in until 2014, so that will show up in next year's breakdown.

[Read more...](#)

New Dates for 2015 Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Expo

The Southern Forest Products Association (SFPA) has revised the dates for its 33rd Forest Products Machinery & Equipment Exposition – Expo 2015. The show will now be held June 10-12, 2015 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, with the theme: “Your Show. Your Business. Your Success”.

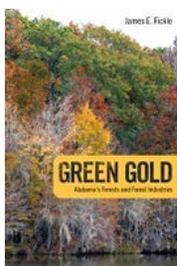
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Forestry Field Day Set for Escambia County

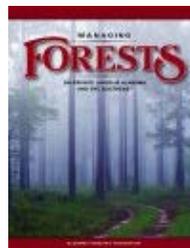
A Forestry Field Day will be held on the Escambia Experimental Forest, June 12, 2014. Plan to attend this informative forestry field day at the Escambia Experimental Forest just south of Brewton, Alabama on June 12. Topics include natural and artificial regeneration techniques, forest inventory and mapping 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>

Don't Forget About These Great New Books About Our Industry

We now have two fine 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 every produced on managing forests

for timber production and for preserving water and wildlife resources.

In each case, your Association was involved in the production and printing of these books. So obviously, every book sold helps defray the cost of producing such high quality publications for our industry and for the general public. If you are interested in owning either or both of these fine books, contact Liz Chambers at (334) 481-2135 or lchambers@alaforestry.org.