



Phone: (205)987-8811
 Fax: (205)987-9824
 E-Mail: RLL@AFOA.ORG

CAPITAL IDEAS

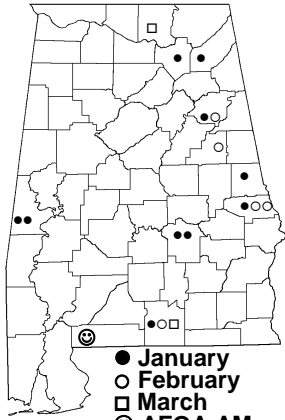
The Newsletter of the Alabama Forest Owners' Association, Inc.

Advocate for the Forest Owner
 January 2010 Vol. 29, No. 1
 www.AFOA.org

P. O. Box 361434
 Birmingham, Alabama
 35236-1434



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



● January
 ○ February
 □ March
 ☺ AFOA AM

JANUARY 2010

Each weekend of January...Marshall County. **Eagle Awareness Weekends.** Location: Lake Guntersville State Park. *This program has been so popular they have added the first weekend of February as well.* Watch Bald Eagles glide across the sky and view their nesting sites. Guided interpretive programs held each weekend will help you get in touch with one of America's greatest symbols. Call Lake Guntersville State Park for pricing at (256) 571-5440.

January 2...Sumter County 104.9 FM, WSLY 7 AM. **Hardwood's For Wildlife** with Peter Frankowski, Advantage Forestry. To be archived at www.canebrakeforestry.com/Past_Shows.html Call Mark Bedsole at (334) 341-2007.

January 5...Calhoun County. **Special Primary Election** will be held to fill the vacant seat in the Alabama House of Representatives, District 40.

January 6-7...Lee County. **Project Learning Tree (PLT) Facilitator Training** at Auburn School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences. This two day training will give you the information and materials you need to conduct PLT workshops for educators and others in your area. Fee: \$75; covers hotel room, meals, and materials. Chris Erwin: (334) 481-2133.

January 9...Sumter County 104.9 FM, WSLY 7 AM. **Longleaf: Past & Future** with Mark Hainds, Longleaf Alliance. To be archived at www.canebrakeforestry.com/Past_Shows.html Call Mark Bedsole at (334) 341-2007.

January 11...Orlando, Florida 8 AM - 5 PM. **Wood-to-Energy Supply/Demand/Growth Forum.** "This roundtable forum will assess supply/demand projections for wood in the U.S. and will explore technologies that should extend, increase, and expand existing and future wood supplies for new and traditional uses." Lunch provided. Call Fred Denekke at (928) 642-8947.

January 12 - February 16...Brooksville, Florida 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. **Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm Women.** Location: Hernando County Extension Office. The course is each Tuesday at the specified time for the duration of the course. Sessions will combine lecture, discussion, individual and small group activities, and software training. Fee: \$25. Call Nola Wilson at (352) 671-8400.

January 13...Perry, Florida 8:30 AM - 4 PM. **Forest Vegetation Management - Silviculture & Invasive Weed Control Workshop.** Location: Taylor County Extension Office. Call Barry Tye at (850) 838-2286.

January 14 - February 18...Ocala, Florida 5:30 PM - 9 PM. **Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm Women.** Thursdays at Marion County Extension Office. See January 12 for details.

January 19...Montgomery County 5 PM - 7 PM. **Alabama Agribusiness Council Legislative Reception** at RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery. AFOA is one of several sponsors of the Council's reception. Call Leigha at (334) 834-4006.

January 20...Montgomery County. **21st Annual Nonpoint Source Conference** at Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center. Rainwater that contains silt or other contaminants that runs off forestland is considered a pollutant. The forestland is considered a non-point source. Call Molly Tatum at (334) 394-4360.

January 20...Nationwide 11 AM - 12 PM CT. **Forest Certification Applications and Impacts for Small Private Forest Landowners.** Location: Webinar. "This webinar will discuss research that the presenters have performed on the impacts of forest certification for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and American Tree Farm System (ATFS)." Speakers: Fred Cabbage, PhD and Susan Moore, PhD, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources North Carolina State University. Call Bill Hubbard at (706) 340-5070.

☎ January 21...NATIONWIDE 10:00 AM (CT). **CAPITAL IDEAS - LIVE! 30-minute Telephone News Conference for Alabama Forest Owners.** Listen on your phone or later on the web. Call AFOA to register: (205) 987-8811.

January 23...DeKalb County 10 AM - 2 PM. **Wilderness Survival 101** at Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne. Learn hands-on methods of basic survival skills dealing with water, shelter, food, fire, and getting found. Fee: \$20. Pack your own lunch, snacks, and water. Call Renee Morrison at (256) 782-5697.

January 26...Chambers County 8 AM. **Teachers-In-Service.** Location: Farmers Federation Building, LaFayette. Teachers and interested landowners welcome,

but attendance is limited to 25 attendees. Call Bill Frazer at (334) 864-7865.

January 26...Mount Pleasant, Texas 8 AM - 4 PM. **Timber Income and Property Tax Workshop.** Location: Mt. Pleasant Civic Center. Fee: \$70; lunch provided. Same workshop January 27 in Palestine, Texas and January 28 in Livingston, Texas. Call Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630.

January 26-29...Covington County. **Longleaf 101: Pine Training Academy.** Location: Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, Andalusia. Class and field instruction included. Fee: \$800; includes lodging & meals Monday evening through Friday lunch. Call J. J. Bachant-Brown at (334) 427-1029.

January 27...Nationwide Teleconference Noon CT. **Conflict Resolution: When Do We Negotiate, Mediate, Or Celebrate?** presented by The Family Business Advisor. Fee: \$159 per phone. Call Lee at 1-800-551-0633.

January 29...Statewide. **Alabama Landowner Incentive Program Deadline.** This cost share program administered by the Alabama Department of Conservation will pay up to 50% of the total cost of longleaf pine seedlings and planting. There is not a minimal amount of acreage required, and crop land as well as cutover land is eligible. Call Traci George, Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator, at (334) 353-0503.

January 31...Statewide. **End of Hunting Season for Deer and Duck/Goose.**

FEBRUARY 2010

February 5...Fort Myers, Florida 9 AM ET. **Property Tour.** Location: Division of Forestry Office. The tour consists of three properties; the first will show where prescribed burning and salvage harvests have been conducted to make way for reforestation and gopher tortoises, the second property will look at advanced natural pine regeneration, and the third will provide an example of a small meat goat operation. Pre-registration required. Lunch included. Call Chris Demers at (352) 846-2375.

February 5 - March 12...Live Oak, Florida 1 PM - 4 PM. **Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm Women.** Fridays at Suwannee County Extension Office. See January 12 for details.

February 6...Clay County 8:30 AM - 3 PM. **Prescribed Burn Demonstration** at Talladega National Forest. Participants will receive an indoor presentation and will then be able to observe a portion of the controlled burn unit from a safe vantage point. Pre-register by January 15. Light lunch provided. Call John Stivers at (334) 253-2139.

February 7-9...Lee County. **Southeastern Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting.** Location: Auburn University Conference Center. Topics: Global

Warming, Cap and Trade issues, Carbon Credits and Ethics, Climate Model Predictions, Forest Sustainability, Wood Fuel for Automobiles, and Afforestation. Call Doris Jefferson at (706) 845-9085.

February 9-12...Covington County. **Longleaf 101: Pine Training Academy.** Location: Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, Andalusia. Class and field instruction included. Fee: \$800; includes lodging & meals Monday evening through Friday lunch. Call J. J. Bachant-Brown at (334) 427-1029.

February 9 - March 16...Bushnell, Florida 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. **Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm Women.** Tuesdays at Bushnell Community Center, 407 E. Belt Ave. See January 12 for details.

February 10...Atlanta, Georgia 7:45 - 3:30 PM ET. **Timber Market Analysis.** Location: Emory Conference Center Hotel. Teaches a detailed approach and specific strategies for analyzing timber markets for timberland, bioenergy, wood procurement, and forestry consulting applications. Fee: \$600; \$40 discount if paid by January 27. Call Amanda Lang at (478) 396-0704.

February 10 - March 17...Sarasota, Florida 5:45 PM - 9 PM. **Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm Women.** Wednesdays at Sarasota County Extension Office. See January 12 for details.

(CALENDAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Alabama Forest Owners' Association, Inc. Officers & Board of Directors	
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STANDING TIMBER VALUES

	Hardwood Pulpwood		Oak Sawtimber	
	3Q08	3Q09	3Q08	3Q09
Alabama				
North	8.89	9.56	37.85	28.24
South	8.88	9.07	30.41	27.75
Average	8.89	9.31	34.13	28.00

Hardwood Pulpwood — 5,800 lbs./cord
 Oak Sawtimber — 17,500 lbs./1000 Board Feet (Doyle)
 3rd Quarter, 2008 (3Q08) and 3rd Quarter, 2009 (3Q09)
 from Timber Mart-South, University of Georgia.
 *For Timber Mart-South subscription details, call
 (706) 542-4756 or visit www.tmart-south.com M1 01/2010

FORESTLAND FOR SALE

36 acres in Walker County. Located near Carbon Hill and Corridor X. 14 yr old pine plantation with 2 food plots. Paved county road access, water, and power. Deer and small game on property. \$1,388/acre. Contact Jason Ledbetter at (334) 682-9709 (leave message) or marcel_led22@yahoo.com. (334)35

Federal Land Bank Association of North Alabama



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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Company Name	Price Per Share	
	12/15/08	12/15/09
MeadWestvaco (MWV)	10.94	28.27
Plum Creek Timber (PCL) REIT	32.70	36.84
Potlatch (PCH) REIT	25.00	31.84
Rayonier (RYN) REIT	28.88	42.02
Weyerhaeuser Co. (WY)	36.89	43.11

Stock Market Report courtesy of Howard Sokol, Raymond James Financial Services, Birmingham, Alabama.

- Dow-Jones Industrial Average: 10,466.44
 - 10-year Treasury yield: 3.748%
 - Dollar: 91.68 Yen; Euro: \$1.4325
 - Oil: \$76.67/barrel (42 gallons)
 - Gold: \$1,093.30/troy ounce
- Source: *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/24/09.

WOOD PELLET PLANT OPENS IN CROSSVILLE. The DeKalb County plant has a “goal of generating up to 116,000 tons of carbon-neutral energy a year to heat chicken houses.” 20 people will be employed at the plant and another 35 - 40 will supply the plant with raw materials. Source: *Montgomery Advertiser*, 12/19/09

LUMBER & SHEATHING PRICES

Source: <i>Random Lengths</i>	12/17/08	12/16/09
MidWeek Market Report		
2 x 4 lumber *	\$158	\$222
7/16" Oriented Strand Board **	\$157	\$187

* 2x4 #2&Btr KD Western S-P-F (mill base price) (per 1000 board feet)
 ** 7/16" OSB (North Central) (f.o.b. mill prices) (per 1000 square feet)

HOME SALES, PRICES BRIGHTEN: “New data on home sales and prices provided fresh signs of a stabilizing housing market, but a continuing flood of foreclosures and the eventual withdrawal of government life support threatens that trend.” Source: *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/23/09.

HEADLINES:

- **Composite Panel Association says federal biomass feedstock subsidy [BCAP] could “wipe out” composite panel industry — RISI 12/4/09**
- **Weyerhaeuser to become REIT, pay special dividend — Reuters, 12/15/09**
- **State education funding falls — The Birmingham News, 12/2/09**

CLASSIFIED SECTION

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS & MAPS

Pendergrass Aerial Services (334)289-2005

CONSULTING FORESTER - Member: ACF

C. V. Forestry Services	Clayton, AL	(334)775-8345
Melisa V. Love, RF, ACF	Opelika	(334)745-7530
Joseph E. Rigby, RF, ACF	Montgomery	(334)265-8200
F & W Forestry Services	LaFayette	(334)864-9542
Sizemore & Sizemore, Inc.	Tallasse, AL	(334)283-3611
Edward F. Travis Co., Inc.	Mobile	(251)633-8885
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	Mobile, AL	(251)438-4581
Tom Carignan, RF/CF/ACF	Prattville	1-866-361-7677
Leh Bass, RF, ACF	Opelika	(334)749-0598
Eddie Carlson, RF, ACF	Montgomery	(334)270-1291
E. A. Truett & Co., Inc.	Livingston	(205)652-7638
Kelley Forestry Consulting	Montgomery	(334)850-3934
McKinley & Lanier Forest Resources, Inc.		1-800-247-0041
Arthur C. Dyas, RF, ACF	Mobile, AL	(251)432-1500
Gibson Forest Mgmt., Inc.	Aliceville, AL	(205)373-6168
Forestall Company, Inc.		1-800-844-0904
Mark Thomas, RF, CF, ACF, CWB	Birmingham	(205)733-0477
John R. Stivers, RF, ACF, CF	AL & GA	(334)253-2139

CONSULTING FORESTER - Candidate Member: ACF

Mussel Creek Forest Services Greenville (334)382-0450

CONSULTING FORESTER

Whitaker Forestry Service, Inc.	Lutts, TN	(931)724-6514
Morris Forestry Services	Wedowee	(256)357-0177
Lanier-Brookins, Inc.	Forestry Consultants Thomasville, AL	1-800-380-7463 Statesboro, GA
Stewart Forestry Services, Inc.	Decatur, AL	(256)350-9721
Midsouth Forestry Services, Inc.	Gordo, AL	1-888-228-7531
Glenn Berry	Northeast Alabama	(256)463-2525
Forever Green, Inc.	Leeds, AL	1-800-498-5821
Southern Land Management	Union Springs	(334)738-5720
Eiland Forestry & Real Estate	Trussville	(205)655-0191
Bach & DeVos	Montgomery	(334)269-2224
American Forest Management,	Bonifay, FL	(850)547-2634
Southern Forestry Cnslt.	Enterprise, AL	(334)393-7868
Ketchum Land & Timber	Clayton, AL	(334)734-2312

CONSULTING FORESTER

Woodland Services, Inc.	Northwest AL	(256)331-7416
www.ChesnutForestry.com	Northeast AL	(706)936-0699
Lancaster Forest & Land Management		(205)372-2153

HERBICIDES

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www.naturchemstore.net Brent Durham (205)260-2481

INSURANCE

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 Alabama Forest Owners' Association (205)987-8811

LAND FOR SALE

Tutt Real Estate LLC	Linden, Alabama	1-888-295-2316
Carlson Land Services	Montgomery	(334)270-1291
Hudson Hines Real Estate	Monroeville	(251)564-1457
Eiland Forestry & Real Estate	Trussville	(205)655-0191
American Forest Management	Bonifay, FL	(850)547-2634
Frank Thomas & Associates, LLC	Montgomery, AL	(334)271-1236 www.frankthomasllc.com
AlalandCo, Inc.	All of Alabama	1-866-751-5263
Farm & Timber Land	Alabama	www.alalandco.com
Sizemore & Sizemore, Inc.	Tallasse, AL	(334)283-3611
www.GTAuctions.com		1-800-996-2877
United Country Land Crafters		(334)277-6501
John Hall & Co.	www.johnhallco.com	(334)270-8400
McKeithen Land & Realty, LLC		(251)974-5656

LOG HOMES

Legacy Log Homes, LLC Hoover, AL 1-888-LOG-2007

PINE STRAW HARVESTING

Pine Straw Baling (334)740-8390

POND MANAGEMENT

Honey Hole Fisheries Ralph, AL (205)333-3665

POSTED SIGNS

Alabama Forest Owners' Association (205)987-8811

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS

Edward F. Travis Co., Inc.	Mobile	(251)633-8885
Larson & McGowin, Inc.	Mobile, AL	(251)438-4581
Sizemore & Sizemore, Inc.	Tallasse, AL	(334)283-3611

TIMBER BUYER

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We buy timber in Central Alabama.		(334)875-5100
Blue Ox Forestry, Inc.		(334)875-5100
IndusTREE Timber, Inc.		(334)567-5436
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TREE MARKING PAINT & TOOLS

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TREE PLANTING EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

Site Preparation & Tree Planting Services.
 For a list in your county, call AFOA at (205)987-8811.

TREE SEED FOR SALE

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LOUISIANA FOREST SEED CO.	(318)443-5026

TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE

INTERNATIONAL FOREST COMPANY 1-800-633-4506
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R & A Forestry Mulching	Jasper	(205)516-4823
W. Vail Land Improvement	Macon	(334)750-3529
Walker Lands	Pike Road	(334)300-5115

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES: First Line \$85.00/year.

(CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

February 15...Nationwide. **Application Deadline** to enter an exhibit in the Alabama Flora and Fauna Art Show. Call Ann Harper at (334) 285-4550.

February 16-17...Lee County. **Carbon Sequestration in Longleaf Pine Ecosystems** at School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Auburn. This meeting is designed to contribute to understanding carbon sequestration in longleaf pine ecosystems and assist in formulating a standard-C accounting system for southern forests. Call Lisa Samuelson at (334) 844-1040.

February 21-27...Statewide. **Alabama Arbor Week.** This a good week to include the family in your tree planting activities. Send us a photo of your children or grandchildren planting a tree.

February 25...St. Augustine, Florida 9 AM. **Forest Stewardship Property Tour.** Location: Saturiwa Conservation Area, Property of Mike Adams. Call St. Johns County Extension Office at (904) 209-0430.

February 26-27...Jekyll Island, Georgia. **The Birth and Death of the Fed.** A Mises Institute conference discussing the central bank. Fee: \$480. Call Patricia Barnett at 1-800-636-4737.

February 26-28...Sandestin, Florida. **Alabama Forestry Association Mid-Winter Meeting** at Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa. Call Fran: (334) 265-8733.

February 27...Calhoun County 7:30 AM. **Alabama Medicinal Plant Growers Association Workshop** at Jacksonville State University Biology Department. Topic: Home and Commercial Use of Medicinal Plants. Fee: \$100. Call Joey Bennich at (205) 540-8215.

February 28...Statewide. **End of Hunting Season for Rabbit, Squirrel, Raccoon, Opossum, and Quail.**


MARCH 2010

March 6...Madison County 8 AM - 4 PM. **Spring Goat Symposium** at Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research

Station. Fee: \$10; lunch included. Call Eddie Wheeler at (256) 582-2009.


March 11...Nationwide Teleconference Noon CT. **Perpetuating Family Wealth Through Entrepreneurial Stewardship** presented by The Family Business Advisor. Fee: \$159 per phone. Call Lee: 1-800-551-0633.

March 16...Statewide. **Turkey Hunting Season opens in all or portions of 59 counties.**

 March 17...NATIONWIDE 10:00 AM (CT). **CAPITAL IDEAS - LIVE! 30-minute Telephone News Conference for Alabama Forest Owners.** Listen on your phone or later on the web. Call AFOA to register.

March 23-26...Covington County. **Longleaf 101: Pine Training Academy.** Location: Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center, Andalusia. Class and field instruction included. Fee: \$800; includes lodging & meals Monday evening through Friday lunch. Call J. J. Bachant-Brown at (334) 427-1029.

APRIL 2010

 April 16-17...Escambia County. **AFOA Educational Program & Annual Meeting** headquartered at Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, Atmore.

- **Friday: Forestry Tours, Estate Planning Workshop, Reception, Exhibits, Dinner with Keynote Speaker.**
- **Saturday: Flexible Forest Management for Unsettled Times, Wildlife Management, Energy Update, Current-use Tax Assessment, Forest Taxation, GPS-GIS Mini-Course.**

Make room reservations now. Limited number rooms available. Call Wind Creek Casino at 1-866-946-3360 and mention **AFOA Annual Conference** to reserve your room at our discounted rate. A meeting registration form will be sent with the February issue of *Capital Ideas*.

...

Always Call Ahead To Confirm Program Details



Donald J. Lancaster
Registered Forester

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E-mail: lms@hughes.net

25 Years Experience in Forest Management

3,543 TEACHING POSITIONS could be eliminated next year if the tax short-fall continues, said Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent of Schools. Source: *The Birmingham News*, 12/23/09.

ACORDING TO The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests (see press release printed on back of *Washington Resource Report*), private land in Alabama supports state tax contributions (income and severance taxes) to the tune of \$7.32 per acre. The contribution to Alabama's Gross Domestic Product for privately-owned forests is \$246 per acre; for publicly-owned forests, only \$5 per acre. Perhaps Schools Superintendent Morton should be focusing on the contribution of the million or so acres of our public forestland to school needs. In a related news story from *The Birmingham News*, 12/27/09, we saw that the Forever Wild Program boasts removing 200,000 acres from property tax rolls and most other meaningful measures of productivity. Should the Program be continued?

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALABAMA FOREST OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

For a current Membership Application go back to the AFOA Home page of the website and select 'Click here for application'.



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Fax (334) 872-2358

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SuperTree Seedlings

HUNTING LEASE LIABILITY INSURANCE REPORT: Currently about 4,700 AFOA members lease 3,373,343 acres to about 7,200 hunting clubs.

TIMBERLAND LIABILITY INSURANCE REPORT: Currently 663 AFOA members protect themselves from liabilities associated with trespass and non-commercial guests on 345,061 acres.

The Wildlife Group

2858 County Road 53
Tuskegee, Alabama 36083
1-800-221-9703

Sawtooth Oak	Japanese Persimmon
Gobbler Sawtooth	Thornless Blackberries
Burr Oak	Methley Plum
Chinese Chestnut	Chickasaw Plum
Dwarf Chinquapin Oak	Black Berries
Callaway Crab Apple	Tree Protectors
Yates Apple	And More!! Persimmon

Creating a wildlife habitat is our business.

FOR SALE: BOOK AND CD SET. We recently reviewed Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. While we won't be placing the book or CDs in public libraries next year, we enjoyed listening to the 8 CDs and think you will, too. Diamond "travels" all over the globe to see why certain cultures succeed while others fail. Unsustainable forest management was blamed for many of the "collapsed" societies. We paid \$19.62 for the book and \$38.10 for the 8-CD set and will take the first offers above \$10 for the book and \$20 for the CDs. Call AFOA.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PINE STRAW OPERATIONS NEAR ATMORE, please call AFOA. We would like to tour a straw operation during our April Annual Meeting.

IF YOU MUST SELL STUMPAGE PAY-AS-CUT (a first thing of your planted pines, for example), you might want to require, in your written contract with the wood buyer, that a loader's log be maintained at the logging site. The log would show date and time and other information about each truckload of wood that leaves your land and should be able to be reconciled with mill scale tickets. The loaders log, or a copy of it, could be turned over to you periodically during the harvest.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE:

Steve Guy, Farmers Federation Forester, **Current-use tax**
Darryl Patton, educator, **Growing and Selling Medicinal Plants**
Robert Tufts, Auburn University, **Estate Tax Workshop**
Henry Barclay, Lehmann, Ullman, & Barclay, **Income Taxes**

ONLINE COURSE: "*Upland Hardwood Silviculture* features seven modules with 16 topics presented by university and Forest Service leaders, including David Loftis, who has led U.S. Forest Service research on oak regeneration for over a quarter of a century." The course was designed for foresters, so the learning curve may be steep at first. Available at: <http://conted.warnell.uga.edu/online-courses/upland-hardwood-silviculture/>. Although free, participants must register.

"EVEN PRE-ELECTION, our new president promised **increased capital gains rates.** His budget proposals for the upcoming fiscal year put the proposal in black and white: capital gains from 15 to 20%, but not until 2011. That gives an opportunity to bring home some gains before this one-third rate increase occurs. Source: Last Hurrah for Capital Gains by Andy Biebl, *The Progressive Farmer*, 12/09.

"UNDER CURRENT LAW, wealthy people who die in 2010 wouldn't be taxed on their estates. But their heirs would pay capital gains taxes on inherited assets when they sell the assets. They would be taxed on the full appreciation of the assets since they were acquired by the decedent. Source: *Timber Taxes Today*, Second Edition 2009, quoting from *The Wall Street Journal*, 9/29/09. "House officials estimate that about 6,000 estates [in 2010] will get relief from the estate-tax repeal. But more than 70,000 would have new capital gains liability from the provision on capital gains. "The dirty little secret about the next chapter in estate-tax law is that more people will get a tax increase than a tax break." Source, *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/17/09.

PLANTING LONGLEAF PINE: "As a general rule, we believe that if longleaf seedlings are planted before Christmas the chances of a planting failure have been halved. Healthy, properly planted, container-grown longleaf will initiate root growth almost as soon as they are placed in moist soil. A seedling planted in October should have several inches of root growth by late spring." Source: *The Longleaf Leader*, Fall-Winter 2009.

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WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT COURSE: A Guide to Improving Our Forests has just been published by The Forest Landowner Foundation. The 282 page soft-cover guide is "Essential reading for new or long-time landowners who do not have an extensive background in forestry. In this practical, concise introduction to the many aspects of owning forestland, you'll learn about options for managing your forests, the benefits and costs of forest management, how to organize activities to meet your objectives, and finding professional foresters to help manage your land. Cost: \$25 includes shipping. Multi-book discounts are available. Call 1-800-325-2954.



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First-Ever Study Quantifies the Economic Impact of Private, Working Forests in the U.S.

Demonstrates that these forests are key to our national infrastructure

December 9, 2009; Charlotte, North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (December 9, 2009) – A new study, commissioned by the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) (<http://nafoalliance.org>) and conducted by Forest2Market® (<http://www.forest2market.com>), quantifies the economic impact of private, working forests on the U.S. economy. The study found a significant gap between the contributions made by privately-owned forests over other ownership types. On average, they generate \$277,000 in state GDP per 1,000 acres, while public forests generate just \$41,000 per 1,000 acres.

The study also concludes that every 1,000 acres of private, working forest creates on average 8 jobs, \$270,000 in annual payroll, \$9,850 in annual state taxes (income and severance taxes only) and \$733,000 in annual sales.

The study completes the picture of the contributions that working forests make, says David P. Tenny, President and CEO of NAFO. “We all know that private, working forests provide clean water and air, open space, wildlife habitat, recreation, and other environmental benefits. This study demonstrates the significant economic benefits these forests provide: family waged jobs, a strong tax base, and the economic foundation of the forest products industry. They are fundamental to both the economic and environmental infrastructure of our nation.”

The study, which looks at economic contribution by state and region as well as nationally, is the first of its kind. “To our knowledge, no one else has taken a comprehensive look at the total contribution that forests make to the economy,” says Pete Stewart, CEO and President of Forest2Market®.

“This study demonstrates that private working forests support local and state economies,” says Stewart. “While the industry is struggling from the depressed housing market and the wider recession, it’s important to know exactly how much working forests contribute in jobs, taxes and GDP. With a clear view of the total contribution, we can better understand the consequences of public policies and market factors that limit how much work these forests can do.”

Results of the study are available using the interactive map on NAFO’s website (<http://nafoalliance.org/economic-impact-report/>). The full study is available at

http://nafoalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/f2m_economic_impact_study_2009.pdf

or

<http://www.forest2market.com/f2m/us/articles/Economic-Impact-of-Working-Forests.pdf>.

About NAFO

NAFO is an organization of private forest owners promoting federal policies that protect the economic and environmental values of privately-owned forests at the national level. NAFO membership encompasses more than 75 million acres of private forestland in 47 states.

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Climate I: As the energy bill affecting forests became a “climate bill” as it passed the U.S. House recently, it is important now to watch the Administration as they navigate the ebb and flow of national and international climate policy. Before leaving for Copenhagen – where an international conclave of approximately 60 heads of state is being held on ‘global warming’, at this writing – President Obama unveiled key details of the U.S. negotiation position headed into the talks, including a provisional greenhouse gas emissions target for 2020 “in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels.” The White House had said Obama would put the 2020 target on the bargaining table in the context of an overall deal in Copenhagen that includes robust mitigation contributions from emerging economies. Forests are a primary factor in the removal of ‘greenhouse gases’ from the atmosphere; which are said to be warming the planet. A smaller percentage of Americans believe in global warming, even though a majority continue to support legislation to curb greenhouse gas emissions, according to a poll released in November. ► Three power plants owned by Southern Co. top the list of U.S. coal-fired sources of heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions, according to rankings released recently. The Atlanta-based utility's Plant Scherer in Georgia topped the list, emitting about 27 million tons of CO₂ annually in 2007, according to the report released by Environment America. The James H. Miller Jr. Plant in Alabama was the No. 2 emitter, followed by Plant Bowen in Georgia. Southern Co. is working to diversify its fuel portfolio and invest in environmental controls, a spokesperson said.

ESA: The Obama administration is lagging behind the pace set by its predecessor for listing endangered species, and some groups are not happy. According to WildEarth Guardians, the administration is carrying on the Bush-era legacy of failing to grant badly needed protections to animals and plants on the brink. A spokesperson for the Center for Biological Diversity: “Only two listings shows they have not correctly shifted the agency’s priorities to correct the foot-dragging of the Bush administration.” So far, President Obama’s Fish and Wildlife Service has offered protection to two U.S. species, both plants, out of nearly 250 on Endangered Species Act’s candidates list. Candidate species have been deemed worthy of protection by federal biologists, but are kept from formal listing because of other priorities for the department. The service also finalized listings for three foreign bird species and a segment of the Atlantic salmon population and edited the listings of two plants and two species of salamander that were previously listed as single species. Altogether, the new administration’s total listings this year lag behind George W. Bush’s administration, which finalized protections for 11 species in its first year. The Bush-era listings tapered off in subsequent years for an average annual listing rate of just under eight species per year; far below the average 65 species listed each year under President Clinton and 58 under President George H.W. Bush. Fish and Wildlife officials say they are handcuffed by litigation on species issues and a lack of money for listings. They promise to dramatically pick up the pace next year. Spokeswoman Valerie Fellows said the service has enough money to protect 61 domestic species from the candidate list next year and intends to fund listing determinations for 60 species and final listings for another 50 species. There is no report on the possibility that they may be listing fewer at-risk species because there are now fewer to list.

Climate II: The USDA Forest Service is radically reshaping its plans in order to focus on climate change. Historically, public land policy has ‘spilled-over’ into private land regulation. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell has directed the agency’s regions and research stations to jointly produce draft “landscape conservation action plans” by March 1 to guide its day-to-day response to climate change. Early in November when requesting the plans, Tidwell said climate change is “dramatically reshaping” how the agency will deliver on its mission of sustaining the health and diversity of the nation’s forests. He focused particularly on water management. He wrote, “Responding to the challenges of climate change in providing water and water-related ecosystem services is one of the most urgent tasks facing us as an agency... History will judge us by how well we respond to these challenges.” Tidwell said the agency’s task is to translate the overall strategic framework for responding to climate change into its daily operations. He directed regional foresters and station directors to work together to prepare aggressive, well-coordinated, area-specific action plans for landscape conservation.

Death Tax: On December 3, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 4154, which was introduced by Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) on November 22, 2009. This estate tax bill would permanently extend the current exemption amount (\$3.5million) and top tax rate (45%). Most of the votes were cast according to party affiliation. Surprisingly, the final vote was close. Senate Democratic leaders are still discussing the path forward, but delays make a one-year extension of current law more likely (% tax rate). Congress is under extreme pressure to act by the end of the year. If it does nothing else, current law will make the death tax disappear on January 1; only to return in 2011 at higher rates and lower exemptions. Few lawmakers are eager to pass a retroactive bill that would tax people after they die and after their estates are already distributed. But consensus on the issue has proven elusive, and the House Democratic Caucus appears split on what to do. Democratic leaders want to move a permanent extension of the current – 2009 – structure of the death tax, which features a \$3.5 million per-person exemption and a top rate of 45 percent. Liberals are upset that such a plan would not be offset by actions to increase federal revenues; even as they searched for every dollar to fund healthcare legislation. Meanwhile, a moderate faction is offering a proposal that would be more favorable to estates. It would gradually bring the top rate down to 35 percent, and push the exemption up to \$5 million and index it for inflation. This legislation is similar to a plan supported by a bipartisan group of senators earlier this year.