



PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER

2021

upcoming events >>>

Coosa County Learn and Burn

February 2-5, 2021

Location: Rockford, AL

Register: alaforestry.org/events

Baldwin County Learn and Burn

February 2-5, 2021

Location: Bay Minette, AL

Register: Learn to Burn Workshop in Baldwin County
- Alabama Cooperative Extension System
(aces.edu)

Timber Sale Basics

February 10, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

Register: Natural Resources Webinar Series -
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
(aces.edu)

Bullock County learn and Burn

February 15-19, 2021

Location: Hurtsboro, AL

Register: alaforestry.org/events

Staff / Contact



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Important Numbers

To Obtain a Burning Permit:
(800) 392-5679

For fire weather resources visit:
[www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/
Burn_Weather.aspx](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Burn_Weather.aspx)



American Tree Farm System


All over Alabama are pieces of land timber stands, family homesteads all marked by a green and white sign stamped with the words “Tree Farm.”

The Tree Farm System is a national organization that was started in 1941. It was established to recognize forest landowners who were practicing good forest stewardship and encouraging other landholders to do the same. All 50 states have a tree farm program and collectively making the National Tree Farm System. This system holds a third party audited certification with a goal to ensure that forests receiving the Tree Farm designation are being managed sustainably.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) provides recognition for landowners who are using ecologically sound methods of forest management. Landholdings that receive the title of Tree Farm are those that meet the objective certification standards of sustainable management. It takes a lot of hard work and intentionality to manage a forest in a sustainable way while also achieving the goals of the landowner for that particular property. Displaying the Tree Farm sign on the property is a way

to show the value in and pride for that hard work.

ATFS is also a tool for landowners as they work towards achieving and maintaining this goal. The tree farm system will provide up to date forest practices and on-the-ground educational assistance to help the landowner make the best decisions for the property. ATFS is a community of landowners who together have a range of forest management experience and contacts. This community can be a valuable asset to a landowner with ideas or challenges on their property. The ATFS is also an advocacy group. The American Forest Foundation, the governing body of ATFS, has an advocacy program to help to make sure family forest owners have a voice in Washington, D.C. By having a voice as a landowner to elected officials we can help advance policies that impact forest stewardship.

The Tree farm sign is not just about farming trees, but about managing forests sustainably for current and future generations. For more information about tree farm or how to become a tree farm owner visit the American Tree Farm System [web site at https://
www.treefarmssystem.org/](https://www.treefarmssystem.org/) 



Benefits of Burning During Nesting Season


Each spring many landowners struggle to decide whether or not to burn during turkey nesting season. Many landowners believe burning could result in negative impacts to turkey populations. However, this is simply not true. Using prescribed fire while vegetation is actively growing is one of the most cost effective and beneficial habitat management tools we have. Universities have researched this topic, concluding that growing season burns benefit habitat and have minimal negative impacts to turkey populations.

University of Georgia research showed hens choose forest stands that were burned 0-2 years prior as brood rearing habitat. Hens become less likely to choose a stand for brood rearing as time between burns increases (more than two years) or no burning at all.

So why growing season burns? Encroaching hardwood saplings shade out native grasses and forbs which turkeys desire. Growing season burns, March through June, improve ground cover conditions in the forest by reducing this woody vegetation. Fire is a natural and safe

way to reduce hardwood invasion while simultaneously encouraging native grasses and forbs to sprout and reseed. New growth is desirable for turkeys providing required nutrients and cover. Seeds from native grasses provide a high source of nutrition for foraging birds. Finally, invertebrates, found within the vegetation, are high in protein, necessary for poult feather and bone development the first fourteen days of life.

Research has proven fire can destroy nests, but in most circumstances hens will re-nest. One University of Georgia study showed only 11.5% of nests were destroyed by fire however 75% of those hens chose to re-nest. In actuality, the most detrimental cause of population decline is from nest predators such as raccoons and avian predators, not prescribed fire. Native bunch grasses, encouraged by growing season burns, provide better line of sight at ground level for hens and poults to spot and evade predators.

By conducting a growing season burn, landowners can help the turkey population excel by improving habitat conditions. 

JOIN AFA TODAY!

Connect with over 7,000 other landowners, foresters, loggers, equipment dealers, realtors, manufacturers and more in Alabama's forest network!



WHY JOIN?

- ★ Protect your values
- ★ Learn about the issues that are important to you
- ★ Educate the next generation
- ★ Promote sustainable forest management

YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE ALABAMA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION:

Keep property taxes low / Fight regulatory abuse / Improve education / Reduce landowner liability/ Streamline state government / Improve roads and

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Landowner / Hunting Club liability insurance
- Prescribed burning insurance
- Quarterly Alabama Forests magazine
- Annual Membership Directory
- Weekly newsletters with the latest news
- Member Alerts about issues impacting your landownership
- Member discounts on all online continuing education

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