

Over 85% of the forestland in the Southeast is held by private landowners, with over 15 million acres in Alabama alone. Families that practice sustainable forestry and manage their woods to create open understory conditions provide critical wildlife habitat and at the same time maintain the economic viability of their land. To achieve these conditions, regular use of prescribed fire and thinning is necessary. Without fire, woody shrubs quickly replace herbaceous groundcover vegetation and greatly decrease wildlife value.

Longleaf pine provides a variety of environmental benefits and recreational opportunities. While longleaf once covered nearly 90 million acres of the South, today its range has been reduced to less than 3 million acres. Restoring longleaf pine can provide critical habitat for many wildlife species, including quail, turkeys and gopher tortoises. Gopher tortoises live in burrows that are often located in open pine forests with a diverse herbaceous understory. Their burrows provide shelter to nearly 300 other species.

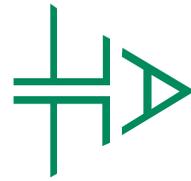
On Saturday November 8th, join us as we tour Gail and Phillip Jones's property in Covington County, Alabama. The Tree Farm, Alabama TREASURE Forest and Stewardship Forest is a portion of Gail's family farm purchased by her grandfather in the early 1920's and has been home to three generations of the family. Initially a row crop operation, Gail's grandfather raised cotton, peanuts and tobacco on the 600 acre tract using mules, and later mechanized and expanded production to include cucumbers for a Montgomery pickling company. Gail's father assumed management of the farm in 1956, diversifying the farm to a cattle operation while he served as the circuit court judge for Covington County. The farm came full-circle in 1989, when Gail and Phillip made the decision to return their portion (166 acres) of the farm back into a forest operation and began planting loblolly pine and now, longleaf pines.

The farm utilizes the services of a consulting forester, the assistance of the Alabama Forestry Commission and participates in forestry education programs, all emphasizing the use of multi-season prescribed burning as well as chemical control of woody vegetation and invasive species. The expertise of these forestry professionals have been significant in the recovery of the extensive damage the farm sustained during Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis in 2004 and 2005. The various management practices have enhanced wildlife habitats for turkey, deer, quail and numerous song bird species. Gopher tortoise habitat has been one of the largest benefactors and has led to the discovery of numerous new burrows along with the species that co-habitat with the tortoise.

At the field tour, speaker topics will include growing and dormant season prescribed fire, utilizing herbicides to control the hardwood midstory, gopher tortoise biology and ecology, and available cost-share assistance for habitat management. As a result of the 2008 Farm Bill, there are a number of new cost-share programs available to forest landowners interested in actively managing their woods for multiple benefits. Lunch will be provided.

The Center for Conservation Solutions (CCS) of the American Forest Foundation works in partnership with resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and research partners to provide family forest owners with the necessary tools to manage their lands for both ecological and economic gains.

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a non-profit organization working to ensure the sustainability of America's family forests for present and future generations. AFF implements programs and initiatives through three centers: the Center for Conservation Solutions, the Center for Family Forests which supports and mobilizes an 80,000-strong community of forest owners and a diverse, nationwide network of organizational partners all committed to sustaining multi-generational forest stewardship, and the Center for Environmental Learning which undertakes both formal and non-formal education programs for youth, families, and other targeted audiences.



American Forest Foundation
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The Thin Green Line™
Working family forests conserve our water quality, natural areas and wildlife—
now and for future generations.
www.forestfoundation.org



**Center for
Conservation
Solutions**

American Forest Foundation

**WANT TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT
IN YOUR WOODS?**



Join Us for a **Conservation Forestry Field Day**

**Saturday, November 8th, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Gail and Phillip Jones Tree Farm
Covington County, AL**

In partnership with:



Registration information inside
Questions? Contact Covington County Extension at (334) 222-1125

www.forestfoundation.org

Landowners Don't Miss Out!

Create a legacy for future generations! Learn about sustainable woodland management that can help improve wildlife habitat!

Field Day Schedule

GUIDED TOUR WILL START PROMPTLY at 9:30 a.m.

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Registration, donuts and coffee
- 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome
- 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Field Tour with Speakers
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Drawing for Door Prizes (tickets distributed at registration)

Speakers and Topics

Site History and Current Management
Gail and Phillip Jones, Landowners

Prescribed Fire: Comparing Growing Season to Dormant Season Fire
Alex Boldog, Consulting Forester

Gopher Tortoise Biology & Ecology
Sharon Hermann, Auburn University

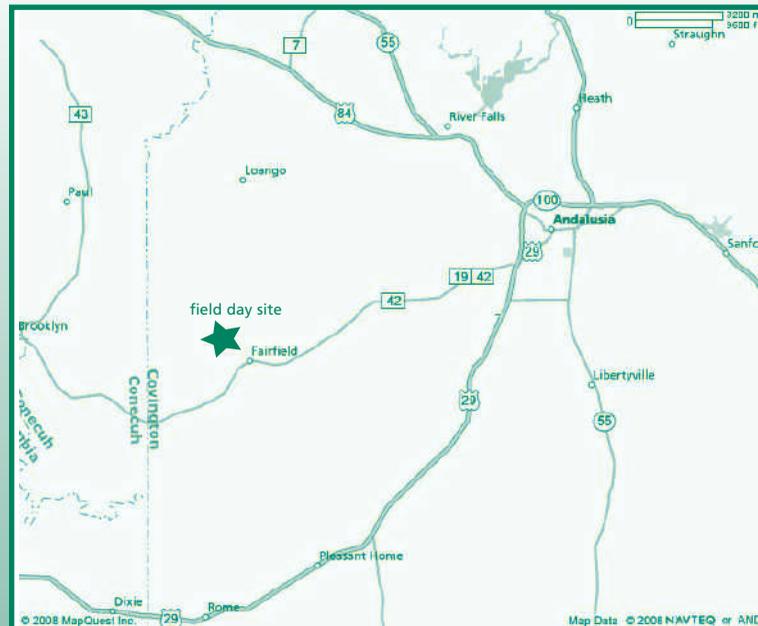
Utilizing Herbicides to Control the Hardwood Midstory and Invasive Species
Mike Older, Covington County Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

Assistance Programs for Family Forest Owners
Rhett Johnson, Co-Director, Longleaf Alliance

Directions

FROM ANDALUSIA

- From 29 South, turn right on Hwy 42
- Go 10 miles, make a right on CR-7 (Judge Smith Road)
- After 2 miles, continue on to dirt road
- After .5 mile, first house on right
- Address is 2409 Judge Smith Road



REGISTRATION

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT FOR THE GOPHER TORTOISE
AND OTHER WILDLIFE

To register, mail this form to:

Covington County Extension Office
P.O. Box 519
Andalusia, AL 36420

Space is limited so register today! Registrations must be received by **November 3**. After that date, call the Extension Office at (334)222-1125 to find out if space is still available.

Please provide the following information when registering:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime phone

E-mail address

Acreage owned (This information is used solely for grant reporting purposes to indicate the total acreage potentially impacted by information presented at the field day.)

Are you a member of ____ Tree Farm ____ Forest Stewardship

Please include a \$10 per person registration fee made payable to *American Forest Foundation*. Checks only. Registration is non-refundable.

Note: Most of the tour will involve riding on open trailers with several discussion stops and a couple of stops requiring short walks. Please wear appropriate clothing and bring rain gear if possible rain is forecast. Participants will be notified by email or phone should the field day be cancelled. Participants providing an email address will receive a reminder email the Monday prior to the field day.

In addition to our partners, special thanks go to our speakers, and the organizations and individuals who volunteered their time and resources to help make this field day possible.