

Alabama Forestry Camp 2001

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Forest measurements.

The 2001 edition of Alabama Forestry Camp was a success this year with approximately 27 students from 17 Alabama counties attending and participating in the weeklong experience of learning about Alabama's forest resources.

Camp was held June 3 - June 8, and marked the fifth year of it being held at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives facility near Epes in Sumter County. The students came from many different locations ranging from the oak-hickory mountain region of the north to the black-belt flat terrain of the south. There were students from urban, metropolitan and rural areas.

From the 17 counties, 11 had at least one student present at camp. Those counties were Calhoun, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Jackson, Lowndes, Marengo, St. Clair, Talladega, Walker and Wilcox. Madison, Montgomery and Tallapoosa had two students each, Greene and

Macon had three students each and Perry had four.

Alabama Forestry Camp is a wonderful experience for high school students. Classroom sessions and field activities are designed to introduce students to all aspects of Alabama's vast natural resources while at the same time highlighting career opportunities in the natural science field. There are also after-hours activities and recreation.

Activities Begin

This year's camp began with a tour of Howell Heflin Lock and Dam in Gainesville, Alabama. The lock and dam illustrated how important our waterways are in transporting Alabama's natural resources to other areas in the Southeast. The lock and dam regulates the flow of traffic on the Tombigbee River. The students were fortunate enough to view an

actual barge passing through the lock and dam.

The following day was spent at the Gulf States Paper Corp., Westervelt Lodge in Pickens County. The students learned basic management skills and forestry techniques. During the session on forest measurements, the students were taught to use forestry instruments such as the diameter tape and the Biltmore stick to measure merchantable trees. For many students, this activity was especially fun because they gained practical knowledge by physically participating in the field activities.

Each year, the most anticipated day of camp is the day they go fishing. There were several students that had never been fishing, but amateurs as well as experienced were excited about catching fish. The campers went fishing at the Charles A. Farquhar State Cattle Ranch in Greensboro and caught enough fish for a fish fry the next day.

One of the most important evenings at camp is College and Career Night. Students got the opportunity to interact with college recruiters and state and federal agency representatives regarding course studies, scholarships, and job and training opportunities. Later in the week students were taken on a tour of the University of West Alabama.

From Sawmills to Indians

If the students wanted to learn how pine trees are converted into timber products, they had that opportunity when they toured Gulf States Sawmill. Gulf States Wood Products Division illustrated how logs are debarked, measured, cut, sorted, stacked and stored using the latest and most sophisticated technology. With the assistance of a tour guide, they had the opportunity to see the sawmill in action from beginning to end.

To understand forestry practices from the Native Americans' perspective, campers visited Moundville Archeological Park to learn forest history. Dorie Stinnett from the U.S. Forest Service gave a presentation describing the physical makeup of American forests and explaining Americans' attitude about them, beginning with the pre-Columbus years and ending with today.

Students also participated in other training sessions during the week including: compass and map reading, hunting and gun safety, and land and wildlife management.

Special guests visited the camp to inform students about important issues such as career opportunities and personal goals. Sumter County Commissioner Chris Spencer and Epes Police Chief Darren Blakely gave motivational speeches to encourage campers to follow their dreams and accomplish their goals.

The Final Day


How can the Alabama Forestry Camp end without having a TREASURE Forest day? During this session, the students visited a TREASURE Forest to experience the importance of land stewardship. Smith & Sons TREASURE Forest in Greene



Fishing is a favorite with everyone.

County, told how they practiced good stewardship of the land by diversifying their management objectives to include timber, wildlife and catfish ponds.

The graduation ceremony, held in the auditorium at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, acknowledged the students' completion of camp. Each student received a certificate and a photograph taken with guest speaker, James Gooder of the U. S. Forest Service.

Alabama Forestry Camp is free to anyone who qualifies to attend. They must be an Alabama high school student from the age of 15 to 18, who have completed their freshman year but have not graduated from high school. If you know someone interested in attending Alabama Forestry Camp, have him or her call any county office of the Alabama Forestry Commission for more information. 

Memorial

Mrs. Ruby G. Story of Cullman died Thursday, August 16 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was 88. Her family property was certified as TREASURE Forest # 1,184 in 1996. She was managing her 612 acres for timber and wildlife.

Mrs. Story dedicated her life to being a homemaker. Two sons, Bobby M. Story of Orange Beach and Ricky Story of Cullman; two daughters, Betty S. White and Sandra S. Wright both of Cullman; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren survive her.