

MEMORIAL

to a TREASURE Forest Landowner

Bobby Allen Bearden

March 17, 1949 - October 10, 2011

*“Each of us, someday,
will go home again.”*

*By Bruce Springer
Regional Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission*



Bobby Allen Bearden, an active TREASURE Forest landowner from Plantersville (Chilton County), Alabama passed away on October 10, 2011.

Bobby became an entrepreneur at a very young age. With encouragement from his father and the Dallas County 4-H Club mentors, and the aid of a big white draft horse named Caldonia, he won the National Corn Growing Championship. Year after year, his interest in the cattle industry brought him many ribbons and awards for producing and showing grand and reserve champion stock. As a leader for FFA and 4-H clubs, he served and represented Dallas County in numerous local and state activities. He was awarded the American Farmers Degree for his production of livestock and greenhouse operations.

Following his graduation from school, he entered business with his father in building and expanding the family nursery and greenhouses. Shortly thereafter, he served his country as an aircraft electrician on active duty in the 107th Transportation Company of the Army National Guard and Reserve. Upon his return to Plantersville, he purchased the greenhouse business, and through the years expanded it to one of the largest such operations in the Southeast.

Bobby's diversification of interests led him into forestry and conservation. His strong belief that **“One generation plants the trees, and the next one sits in the shade”** has been proven by growing and planting millions of pine seedlings. A pioneer

among the state's private landowners to study and plant longleaf pine, he was willing to share his exceptional knowledge of the subject with countless other landowners and people throughout the area. Along with his love of the forest, wildlife conservation was always included in every management plan of his forest development. One of his parcels was designated as a BMP Demonstration Site.

Honors in forestry received by Bobby included TREASURE Forest certification, Alabama Tree Farmer of the Year in 1992, runner-up for district Helene Mosley Memorial Award in 1993, “One in a Million” recognition, and Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District, plus awards for providing educational programs as well as tours in forestry and conservation on his timberlands – not only for Chilton County, but also for Autauga, Bibb, Dallas, and Perry counties. He held memberships in the Chilton County Forestry Planning Committee (serving as president for several years), the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, the Longleaf Alliance, the American Tree Farm System, and the Alabama Forest Owners' Association. Bobby was a contributor to Auburn University School of Forestry and the “Log a Load for Kids” program for Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama.

At his request, pallbearers at Mr. Bearden's funeral were current and past associates of the Alabama Forestry Commission. 🌲