

# BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



**SPECIAL ISSUE:**  
THE BANKHEAD WATERSHED

PROJECT  
INSIDE:

FREE BANKHEAD POSTER

WALKING THE SIPSEY

# BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

US Forest Service clearcut

*IS THIS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT?*

FS Road 235, 1 ½ miles East of Sipsev Recreation Area  
on Cranal Road. Only yards from Sipsev Wilderness



EDITORIAL



Bankhead National Heritage Area

Who was here first? Was it our Native American and Colonial ancestors or the US Forest Service? Who lived out their lives, shed their blood and still lies buried among the hills of the Warrior Mountains? Our ancestors or the Corporate-controlled US Forest Service? We all know the answer.

What is the wisest use of our tiny, fragile National Forest - to remain a reservoir of our cultural heritage or to continue the ongoing process of converting it into an Industrial Tree Farm? It clearly cannot be both at the same time. Industrial forestry practices destroy our landmarks and our old growth trees. The land is defiled by oil dripping machines that crush the rocks and destroy the soil. Clearcut lands are unrecognizable after the war machines rumble through, and the whining chain saws kill every tree within reach. "Undesirables" such as dogwoods are killed to make room for the cloned pines of the tree farmers. The first rains wash the topsoil into the streams. I have stood in the rain and watched injections of brown sediment pour into the pristine streams which are the blood veins of the Warrior Mountains.

These mountains and all therein are sacred to all of us. They are sacred to the Native Americans because they are all that remain of their native wildlands. They are sacred to others because seven generations of their families lived among the very hills and valleys that are being desecrated and destroyed by corporate greed today. Science cannot disprove the idea of the sacredness of our last wild places and the ancient landmarks that are woven intricately within. If these places and trees are sacred in the hearts and souls of the inhabitants of this land, then the issue is settled, and it is not subject to endless, callous discussion by US Forest Service bureaucrats.

For this reason there is a Battle For The Bankhead. Join with us and change the course of history over the mismanagement of your sacred public lands. They are, after all, your irreplaceable heritage.

Lamar Marshall

"Any cartoons or photos resembling living, dead or fictional persons are merely optical illusions."

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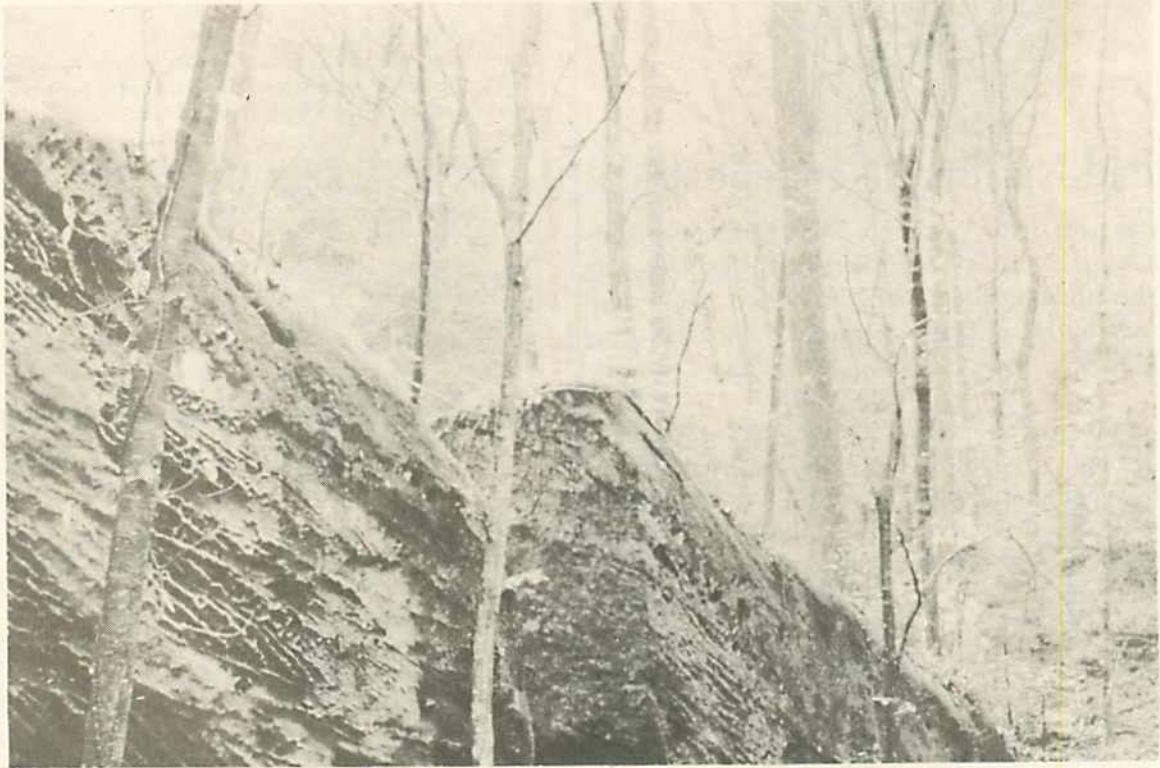
Don't miss this special ! The Flawed Forest Plan of 1985 - The ABC's of Planning - Indian Tomb Hollow - Roads - Looting our Public Lands - Pleistocene Relic Canyons - The Presettlement Forest of 1817 - Recreation versus Timber - Birds - and much more. This is your primer to join the fight to save the Bankhead National Forest.

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER

Plush ferns thrive in the damp canyons and waterfalls of the Bankhead watersheds. Photographed by Charles Seifried, the photographer of the Bankhead.

# THE WILDERNESS PATH

## Sipsey Wilderness Trail 203 - Braziel Creek



By Robert Cox

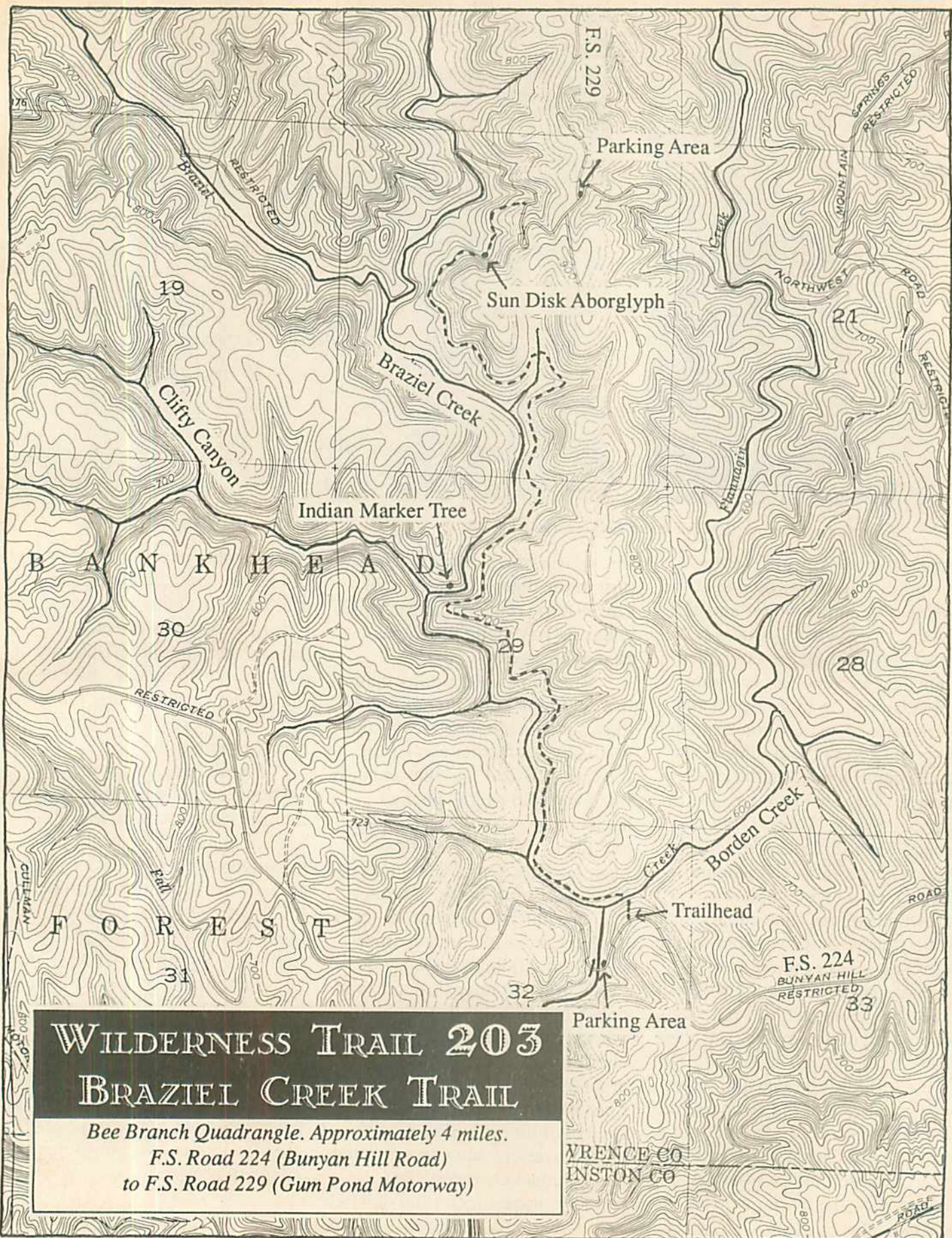
The Warrior Mountains of northwest Alabama are rich in history as well as beauty. Remnants of ancient Indian footpaths crisscross the river valleys and mountains. Many modern roads and trails parallel these nearly forgotten paths. The Braziel Creek Trail is one of these paths.

The scenic Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead National Forest has eight official trails transversing a variety of terrain including the high ridges, deep canyons, and bottomland flats of the Warrior Mountains. Trail 203 (or Braziel Creek Trail) is relatively unknown to many users of the forest. Opened in the fall of 1993, this

trail offers a scenic landscape which is very different from the trails of the wild Sipsey Fork.

To reach the trailhead, turn off Highway 33 onto Cranal Road (Co. Road 6 in Lawrence County, or Co. Road 60 in Winston County), heading toward the Sipsey Recreation Area. After traveling approximately 1/4 mile, turn right onto the first gravel road (Forest Service Road 224 - Bunyan Hill Road.) Follow this road for three miles until you reach the gated-off curved bridge. The bridge crosses Borden Creek and the parking area is located on the south side. The actual trailhead is located 1/4 mile *before* you reach the bridge. It is on the north side of the road.

As you hike the trail north, the first obstacle is the clear blue water of the Borden Creek Crossing. Fortunately, a large beech tree has fallen over the creek just upstream from the trail. Use this natural bridge or ford the stream, and head west on an old logging road. You will soon reach the junction of Braziel and Borden Creeks, and the trail turns in a northwesterly direction. Ancient beeches, old pines and hemlocks greet you as you follow the beautiful east bank of Braziel Creek upstream. Approximately 1/2 mile from the trailhead, the trail leaves the old logging road and ascends the slopes above the stream. For the avid backcountry explorer, there are some small canyons



# WILDERNESS TRAIL 203 BRAZIEL CREEK TRAIL

*Bee Branch Quadrangle. Approximately 4 miles.  
F.S. Road 224 (Bunyan Hill Road)  
to F.S. Road 229 (Gum Pond Motorway)*

WRENCE CO  
INSTON CO



An Indian marker tree (left) and a sun symbol carving (right) may be found on Braziel Creek Trail in Sipsey Wilderness

across the creek, which have beautiful waterfalls when the water is up in the winter and early spring. As you work your way north on the trail, the evergreen hemlocks become less common and give way to more beech and various hardwoods. Approximately two miles from the trailhead, the trail rounds a bend in the river, where a large canyon is visible to the northwest. This is *Clifty Canyon*, a beautiful backcountry hike which winds through open hardwood slopes and a hemlock-crowded stream. Back on the main trail, just past the bend and on the opposite side of the creek, is an Indian marker tree, bent by Cherokee tribesmen over 150 years ago. According to Rickey Butch Walker, local historian and author of *High Town Path*, this chinquapin white oak is located on the remnants of the legendary *Freedom Trail*, a trail used by the Cherokee Indians of the Tennessee Valley to avoid removal on the infamous Trail of

Tears. The tree marks a 90 degree turn in the direction of the trail. This historic trail is still visible as it winds its way along the slopes above the creek.

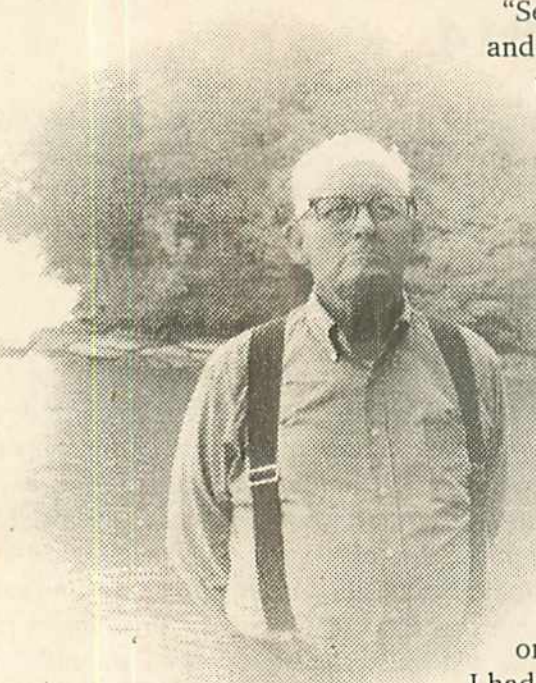
Traveling north on the main Braziel Creek Trail, the rock bluff lines become harder to see as they gradually get further away from the creek. Broad, flat bottomlands filled with old yellow poplars, ancient American Beech stands, and the occasional majestic old pine, become dominant with very little understory brush. As you near the junction of Hagood and Braziel Creeks, the trail ascends slightly and follows the Hagood Creek branch. Near this area, and only a few feet off the trail, is an arboglyph (tree carving) on an enormous beech tree. This arboglyph was carved by the Cherokee and depicts the sacred symbol of the sun. This remarkable sun disk or sun circle also has slight human characteristics, possibly suggesting a chief or

other notable person. The carving can be seen only by hiking the trail north, as the symbol faces toward a southerly direction. Arboglyphs abound in this area of the Warrior Mountains. Rattlesnakes, copperheads, and other sun circles were used to mark trails or sacred sites.

Less than a quarter mile north of the sun circle arboglyph, the trail intersects with Forest Service Road 208 (now closed under wilderness protection) and ascends until its intersection with E.S. Road 229 (Gum Pond Motorway) and the northern trailhead. Sipsey Wilderness Trail 203 is approximately a four mile hike. Like all trails in the wilderness, it has no trail blazes. Although not shown, it would be on the Bee Branch quadrangle. This wilderness path offers a rich scenic beauty steeped in history - which only the unique Warrior Mountains can provide.

# Nature Paid My Way

From the Journals of Sparks' life, *Telling It Like It Was.* by Guy Sparks



"Seems I already had some knowledge of the medical plants and my love for the wild and nature itself. I was ready I thought to make it my forever-right, steady hobby. I knew so well it was what I wanted to do. I didn't know it then, but I soon learned I was getting into the biggest surprise of a lifetime. What seemed to baffle me was, I thought I knew a lot about wildflowers and plants, but soon found out that what I had been tromping over all my life I had seen such little of, and I knew nothing about it. It made me feel so dumb and foolish. I had what I thought was an eye of an eagle. I had always prided myself on seeing everything that moves, and most that didn't. And then I learned I was walking over so many plants that I had never seen before in all my life. And then there was so many that I thought I knew everything about I soon found out that I knew hardly anything about them. And there were other plants that were the most beautiful wild orchids and it would make me feel so foolish wondering why I had seen them all my life but I had never seen them in bloom.

Or did I ever know they were orchids in the first place? Nor did I ever

know there was a whole family of them and no two alike that bloomed throughout the whole year's growing season; that all have the same characteristics but none will be alike?

Starting with two kinds of hepatica, round lobed and sharp lobed, that can be found in most all the rocky upland wood, most anytime after the first sunny days in February and March. They're worth anyone's time that (who) loves wildflowers to watch for them. There's another plant of the buttercup family that can be found growing in most dry woods anytime after the sun shines in early February. And it will last for weeks. It's another one of the most beautiful little plants I think one could look for. And there is a whole family of them that blooms throughout the year, all buttercups of course. The size range from a few inches to six feet or more.

Bloodroot is another early bloomer. It graces the rich high wood land with its beautiful snow white blooms in the very earliest days of February. It's of the poppy family. The next earliest flowering family of plants is the lily family, and it covers such a wide area. But one outstanding little plant that carpet the rich rocky hillside and even in fertile creek bottoms is the trout lily. It seems to come from nowhere and leave the same way. Rooted deep in the soil with its two beautiful green and blue leaves and a star like bloom on a single stem. It helps more to prove spring has come than any other I could name, not leaving out the violet family. The lily family covers just about everything from the onion, Devil's-bit, Star of Bethlehem, Bunch Flowers, Fly Poison, Feather Bell, Turkey Beard, Colic Root, False Solomon's Seal, Starry False Seal, White Lily-of-The-Valley, White Clintonia to Wild Leek. Then there's Large Flowering Bellwort, Cucumber Root, Wild Oat, Canada Lily, true Solomon Seal, and others.

I suppose I have carried this too far already. But what I would love to prove is that everyone that loves to think and loves to look for things that can relax the body can keep an idol mind occupied. Ever since I first realized anything, I have had a special love for looking for or hunting things. Even though what I might be hunting could be very worthless money wise. At the same time, if it relaxes the mind and body that would be pay enough in this fast world of ours...

## PART THREE: THE CREEK INDIAN WAR, 1780 - 1814

The following firsthand account of the Creek Indian War in Walker County was recorded by George Gaines and was first published in The Mobile Register in 1872. Gaines gives the reader a realness of what he is himself witnessing. His writing needs no explanation, however, the following is a brief background on some of the people he is describing, as well as General Gaines himself.

### THADDEUS (TANDY) WALKER

Tandy Walker was born in 1775 in Rutherford County, North Carolina and married Nancy Byers in 1795. They moved to the Alabama Territory and lived with the Upper Creek Indians. However, in the troubled days of the Indian War, like the other few white people in Indian Country, they were forced to move south to the safety of the fort on the Tombigbee River at St. Stephens. Tandy would later return to the mouth of Mallard Creek near Eldridge. Tandy Walker is Alabama's first hero, but it was not his deeds that survived to this day. Instead it is a comment made to him by an Indian that still stirs the imagination of the local people.

One day as Tandy Walker was making a horseshoe an old Indian who was watching him made the comment that if he was half as smart as he thought he was, he would be shoeing his horse with silver. This remark passed down through the Walker family for many generations is still alive and well. The quest goes on and although no silver has surfaced yet, gold has been found. The old Gold Mine Cemetery at Brilliant, Alabama remains today a mute reminder of a placer claim gold mine on the Buttahatchee River.

### OCEOCHMOTLA

Oceochemotla was a Creek war chief that returned to his homeland in 1780 and established himself at Tuscaloosa's (tusca, warrior; loosa, black) town. This site was verified by other sources as being on the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River directly across from the mouth of Sipsey (sipsey, eastern cottonwood poplar tree) River. This site is at modern day Sipsey, Alabama. From Tuscaloosa's Town, the old chief would reign terror on the first settlers in Tennessee, crossing that state many times with his comrade in arms, Tecumseh (Flying Panther).

General Coffee is well known in the history of the Creek Indian War in Alabama. It is from his military notes that we know the location of the Black Warrior's Town, on the Mulberry Fork of the Warrior River directly across from the mouth of the Sipsey. Others confirm this location, including Colonel Richard Brown, who was in command of the Cherokee and was using Creek scouts from the Rocky Plains. These scouts would become known in history as the Tory Creeks. All of these people knew Oceochemotla and where he lived: Sipsey, Alabama.

### EXCERPTS FROM THE MOBILE REGISTER

The following paragraphs are excerpts from the Mobile Register, which are reprints of the notes of George S. Gaines at the age of 90, as he reminisced about his earlier years.

A cunning Creek Chief named O-ceo-che-mot-la obtained permission of the Choctaws to make a settlement at the falls of the Black Warrior, so that the hunters of each tribe might have a resting place when visiting each other. The settlement had increased to many families before I took charge of the Choctaw trading house, at St. Stephens, and traded largely with us. I was in the habit of extending credit to the old Chief of about a hundred dollars, which he always paid off at his next visit, but expected the same indulgence





**Chief Osceola**

*George Catlin, 1837*

after he finished bartering. He was in the habit of paying me a visit spring and fall, coming down the river in a fleet of canoes. He came down as usual in the fall of 1811, with a large fleet of canoes and thirty or forty warriors bringing a cargo of peltries, furs, etc. There was a Mr. Tandy Walker, residing in the neighborhood of St. Stephens, who had lived many years before in the Creek Nations as a "Public Blacksmith." Walker had acquired their language and was a great favorite with the Indians. My Black Warrior "friend" always sent for Tandy Walker, when he came to trade with me, to act as an interpreter.

On the present occasion I noticed that the old chief was exceedingly desirous to make me believe he was very much attached to me. He stated he had "took my talk," and had built a snug store-house and brought down several hundred dollars worth of furs, etc., to purchase a supply of goods for his store. I had offered him credit several times before to the amount of four or five hundred dollars, but he would never exceed one hundred dollars debt. He stated to me he was ready to have his peltries, furs, etc., weighed and counted; and would first pay off his old debts, then barter the balance in his favor for blankets, etc. The first day was spent in receiving and taking account of his articles, which having been entered on my books, the chief renewed his friendly conversation about his store-house and the advice I gave him. He said that the next morning he would barter out the value of his peltries, pay off his old debts, and would make his debt "an old hundred," (meaning a thousand dollars) this time. I answered that times had changed - that the British Government had a misunderstanding with the President which might end in a war; and it would be unwise in me to permit him to contract so large a debt and very imprudent in him to do so.

He remarked that his friend Walker, who was a man of property, would be his security for "one or two hundreds." I noticed that Walker was greatly troubled, and was endeavoring to appear calm. I reiterated I could only let him have one hundred dollars credit under the existing circumstances. But he was not to be put off so readily, and entered into an ingenious argument to overcome my objections. The sun went down and the store-house was crowded when I told the Chief it was time to prepare for sleep, and we would "tell each other our dreams in the morning." Bidding me goodnight, he led his party off. In a short time Walker returned. Leaning over the counter he whispered to me, "I told the Chief I left my knife on the counter, for an excuse, so that I might come back to speak privately with you. Meet me at "The Rock" at midnight. Let no one know, for both our lives will be in danger. Saying this, he hastened to follow the Indian party.

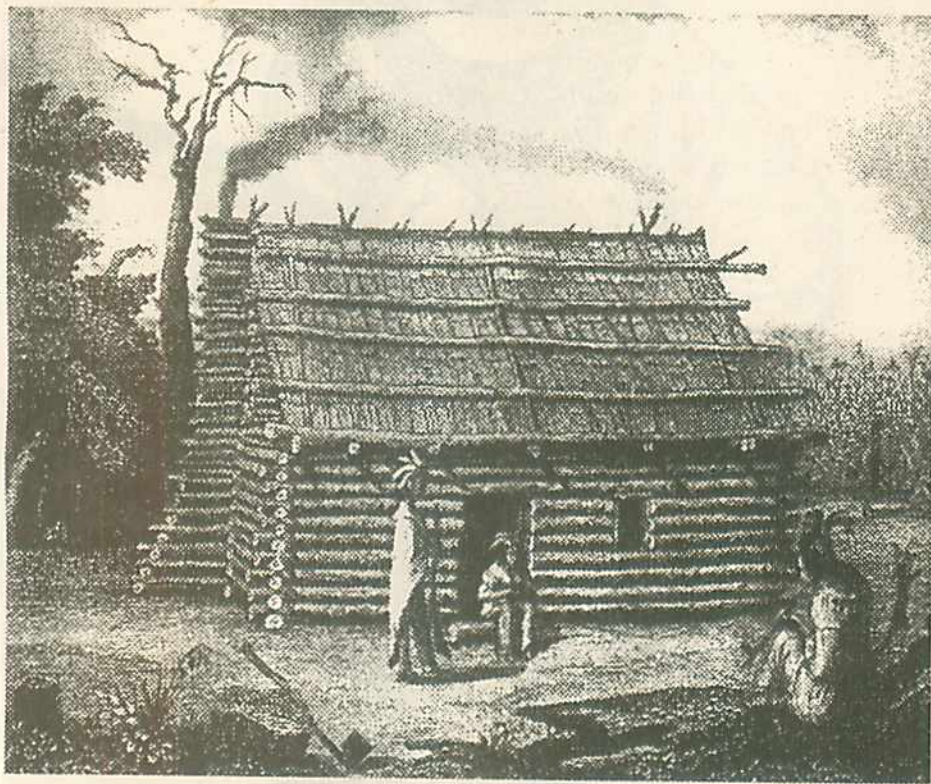
At midnight I went cautiously to the "Hanging Rock," so called because it projected over the bluff of the river near the old Spanish fort. Walker was there; he said to me, "Let us go into the thicket." I followed into a dense thicket where we took seats. He then told me in a whisper that the Creeks had determined to join the British in the war soon to break out; that the Chief of the Black Warrior settlement of Creek Indians proposed to him to unite with him in obtaining all the goods they could possibly get from me; to take his family and go up with him, and have half interest in the store, saying, "Before the time to pay for the goods, there will be no one to demand it; the trading house will be one of the first objects to capture when the (war) commences." Walker said that he was obliged to consent to his proposition, but took care to impress O-ce-o-che-mot-la with the danger of offending me, as my brother was a great war chief, much beloved by the President.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the fall of this year Tandy Walker called at my house to tell me that he had just learned from a Creek Indian, that a white woman had been brought from Tennessee as a prisoner to Tuskalooza (falls of the Black Warrior) by a party of Creek Indians returning from a visit to the Shawnees on the Northern Lakes. Mrs. Gaines, who was present, suggested to Walker that he ought to endeavor to rescue the woman and bring her down to the settlement. Walker said he could do so, but it would be at the risk of his life. He observed, he could walk up on pretense of paying a visit to his friend O-ce-o-che-mot-la; whilst there he could obtain a canoe, and buy or steal her and bring her down. Mrs. Gaines urged him to undertake the enterprise, and Tandy Walker, being a brave, generous-hearted man, consented. He departed immediately on his mission of mercy, returning in about two weeks with the woman, in a canoe. She was in bad health, her mind good deal impaired by suffering; her legs and feet were still in a wounded condition, caused by the brush, briars, etc., she was forced to walk through after she was captured by the Indians. Mrs. Gaines took charge of her, or-

dered a tepid bath, furnished her with comfortable clothing, etc. After a week's tender nursing her mind appeared to be restored. She then related her story.

Her name was Crawley. She resided in a new settlement near the mouth of the Tennessee River. One day, during the absence of her husband, a party of Creek Indians came to her house, murdered two of her children who were playing in the yard; and she had barely time to shut and bolt the door, hastily raising a "puncheon" over a small potato cellar and place her two youngest children there, before the Indians broke down the door, dragged her out of the house and compelled her to keep up with them in their retreat. Several families were massacred at the same time in that neighborhood. They compelled her to cook for them on the march, but offered her no other violence. She thought she would die after reaching the village, and doubtless would soon have but for Mr. Walker's kindness and humanity in rescuing her and bringing her down to St. Stephens. It was several weeks before she was able to undertake the journey home. A party of gentlemen, friends of mine, were about to be going through the wilderness to Tennessee, and consented to take her with them. Col. Haynes and Mr. Malone aided me in purchasing a horse, saddle and bridle for her, and Mrs. Gaines furnished her with suitable clothing, shawls, etc., to render her journey comfortable. When



A Creek house in 1790

she reached home she was delighted to find her husband, and the two children she hid in the potato cellar, alive. The legislature voted money to Tandy Walker for his noble agency in this affair.

I promptly communicated to the War Department the conduct of the Chief Ocochemotla on his last visit to the trading house; also Mrs. Crawley's capture and rescue, and her return to her family. But the policy of Mr. Jefferson's and Mr. Madison's administrations towards the Indians was so humane as to overlook their faults in the hope and expectation of their ultimate civilization.

...about this time a party of Creek Indians were overtaken by some of our militia at the very moment they entered the house of a settler in Clarke County. [Also, during this time] a dispatch was received at the post office, addressed to Gen. Claiborne, with a request that I would forward it immediately by an express. I could find no one, owner of a horse, who would agree to carry it for any price.

Billy Bowlegs,  
A Contemporary of Osceola



Wm Bowlegs 1858  
—

My friend, Tandy Walker, was then wounded and lying at Fort Madison. He was shot during one of his scouts of the Alabama River. I determined to carry it myself. Bailey Heard and another young friend of mine offered to accompany me. We set out late in the evening, crossed the Tombigbee at Jackson after dark, and slept in the village; proceeding on the next morning, we called at Fort Madison, where we found Tandy Walker, who was greatly rejoiced to see us and hear from home.

*Oceochemotla's reign of terror over the Tennessee settlers had come to an end. Jackson's Army sent their scout, Davy Crockett, to the Falls of the Warrior to locate this Upper Creek Indian warrior. Coming near to his village at the mouth of the Sipsey River, Crockett camped at the present day town of Empire, and verified that Oceochemotla was at the "Black Warrior's old town."*

*After returning to Huntsville with the news, Crockett joined with Coffee's Army at Courtland for the march on the Black Warrior's town. Jackson's Army, along with three armies of Indians-- Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Cherokee, arrived at the village and found the Creek Indians had fled their town at Sipsey, Alabama. The Black Warrior old town was burned and the Indians' food taken. Oceochemotla's people had fled their village to the safety of Spanish-held Florida, joining with other Seminole and Uchee that had earlier fled to the safety of the Florida panhandle.*

*Here Oceochemotla would find little peace but a new place in history. "This Indian being the same Indian that Jackson had chased from Alabama," Oceochemotla would have his name shortened to two syllables and could be known in history as Ocoola. As startling as the fact may be, Ocoola, the great Seminole chief was from what we currently know as Walker County, Alabama; other facts concerning his Walker County home are even more profound. It is well documented that Sipsey, Alabama was located on the great East-West Trade route of the prehistoric American Indians. This great road that ran from Charleston, on the Atlantic Ocean, through Hot Springs, Arkansas, and onward to the Pacific. The French called this trade route the Chemin de la Carolina. That portion of the road that transversed Alabama has had many names, including The Road by the Spanish, the Carolina highway by the French, the Chickasaw Road and the Road to the Chickasaw Nation by the English traders, the Alabama Road by the Early settlers and US Highway 78 today.*

*It was along this route that the first explorer, Hernando de Soto, would cross Alabama in 1540. He would leave behind written records of his travels, records of uncanny accuracy and visual descriptions. Henry Schoolcraft, whose writings in the early 1800s were derived firsthand from the Indians and published in Italy shows this road as going through Sipsey, Alabama. This, coupled with the Spanish records, identifies the mouth of the Sipsey River as Tuscaloosa's Town.*

*In modern times, De Soto's route through Alabama has been in doubt. The exact site has been lost. All the scholars do agree, however, that the route is not through the present day site of the city of Tuscaloosa, and that De Soto never saw Moundville. Where then is the historical site of Tuscaloosa's village? Tuscaloosa (Black Warrior) Town is just where it has always been, located at Athahachi (Whitewater), at the mouth of the Sipsey River, exactly where all the old scholars said it was. To view this town site where Ocoola lived, and the mound on which De Soto met Tuscaloosa, one only needs to go to the public boat ramp at the mouth of the Sipsey River and look directly across the Warrior River.*

*The following is an excerpt from the journal of Ranjel, a Spanish explorer, of De Soto's first encounter with Tuscaloosa:*

Sunday, October 10, [1540] the Governor entered the village of Tascalusa, which is called Athahachi, a recent village. And the chief was on a kind of balcony on a mound at one side of the square [and, as Garcilaso says, was seated on a one-piece native chair which in the West Indies a duho], his head covered by a kind of coif like the almaizal, so that his head-dress was like a Moor's which gave him an aspect of authority; he also wore a pelote or mantle of feathers down to his feet, very imposing; he was seated on some high cushions, and many of the principal men among his Indians were with him. He was as tall as the Tony of the Emperor, our lord's guard, and well proportioned, a fine and comely figure of a man. He had a son, a young man as tall as himself but more slender. Before this chief there stood always an Indian of graceful mien holding a parasol on a handle something like a round and very large fly fan, with a cross similar to that of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Rhodes, in the middle of a black field, and the cross was white. And

although the Governor entered the plaza and alighted from his horse and went up to him, he did not rise, but remained passive in perfect composure and as if he had been a king. The Governor remained seated with him a short time, and after a little he arose and said that they would come to eat, and he took him with him and the Indians came to dance; and they dance very well in the fashion of rustics in Spain, so that it was pleasant to see them. At night he desired to go, and the commander told him that he must sleep there.

## Painting Ocoela in a New Light

*History as it is written is never complete or accurate. The best that one can do is to align the facts as best he can and fill in the holes between them. The test of the works, good or bad, is how big the holes are.*

*Over the last 150 years, the history books of Alabama and Mississippi through a process called "quoting the authorities," have become all patch and no tube. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Falls of the Warrior.*

*As the black hole of history becomes deeper and darker, a new breed of historian is emerging. They are throwing the history book away and starting all over again using nothing but firsthand diaries written by people who were a part of history when it was occurring. These records have not been subject to the quoting of the authorities; they are the authorities.*

*This is the saga of Ocochemotla. He had been trying to run the white intruders out of his country. Needing guns and powder, which were obtained from the trading post at St. Stephens, he went twice a year by boat from Sipsey to St. Stephens. While at St. Stephens, he used Tandy Walker as a translator because he could not speak English. This arrangement had been going on for 14 years, possibly longer.*

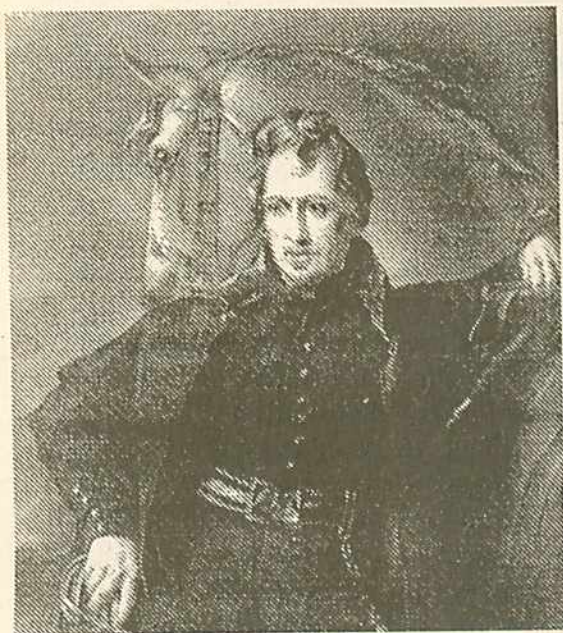
*Having knowledge that Andrew Jackson was coming to kill him and his people, Ocochemotla left Sipsey, Alabama, in 1814 and joined others of the Upper Creek Indians in the panhandle of Florida. In 1817, Jackson invaded Spanish-held Florida and attacked Ocochemotla and his people. By 1819, the United States had acquired Florida and the carnage continued.*

*The reason that Ocochemotla (pronounced OH-SEE-OH-chee-maht-LAH) is not often mentioned in the Seminole war records is that no one could identify him. In all of recorded history, only three white people had ever seen him and could recognize him on sight, and none of these individuals were a part of the Seminole War. Ocochemotla was known only to the Seminole; the military could not identify him.*

*The following is the saga of another man, Ocoela, who was known by everyone. His story begins in the panhandle of Florida. Born approximately in 1804, he was ten years old when Ocochemotla and his people joined the Upper Creeks of Florida. Os-ceo-la, whose name is remarkably similar to O-ceo-[che-mot]-la, was no stranger to war; it was all he had ever known. However, he was not a chief of the Seminole but instead was the greatest of Seminole warriors.*

*In 1835, Osceola was captured but he escaped. He was again captured in 1837; he died in prison three months later. The Seminole war was the only war the U.S. Army lost to the Indians. Embarrassed by their inability to capture and defeat the chief of the Seminole, the Army wanted taxpayers to think that of the many they had captured, Osceola was that chief. The Seminole however, knew better. Before the Army gave up, taxpayers had lost 12 million dollars, and 1,580 soldiers had lost their lives. The Indians who died in this war were not recorded, but doubtless counted in the thousands.*

*As history would have it, these two great men-- Osceola the warrior [with an "s"], and Ocoela the chief [without the "s"] would become as one in spirit and history, to the extent that they now*



**Andrew Jackson**

cannot be separated. The Army lost; the taxpayers lost; the Indians lost. Out of all the horrors of war, there would be only one winner: Andrew Jackson, a man who killed his way into the hearts of the American people; a man who murdered his way into the White House.



Jim Manasco

## Andrew Jackson Fact Sheet

### Did You Know That Andrew Jackson:

- \* Institutionalized the spoils system, a curse on American government to this day?
- \* Formed the infamous “Kitchen Cabinet”, an unofficial group of advisors to the President, setting the pattern for influence-peddling in government?
- \* Caused the Depression of 1834 and the Panic of 1837 with his monetary policies, especially his opposition to the Bank of the United States, a forerunner to the Federal Reserve?
- \* Invaded Spanish Florida without authorization, creating an international crisis? The Congress and Cabinet debated censure against Jackson.
- \* Started the First Seminole War during his invasion of Florida?
- \* Ordered the removal of all Indians west of the Mississippi, the first example of concentration camps and genocide?
- \* Burned many Creek Indian villages in a six-month massacre, 1813-14?
- \* Destroyed “Negro Fort” and its inhabitants, a community of free blacks on the Apalachicola River in Spanish Florida that served as a haven for runaway slaves?
- \* Executed Arbuthnot and Armbrister, two British traders at St. Marks, whom Jackson believed were plotting with the natives, although there was no evidence?
- \* Executed Creek Indian Chief Francis the Prophet at St. Marks, although he was no threat?

*new series*

# RIVER CANOEING

By John H. Foshee



## INTRODUCTION

For almost 50 years, John Foshee has walked and paddled across Alabama. He is the author of several books on the outdoors. Alabama Canoe Rides and Float Trips and You, Too, Can Canoe are two of his most popular.

Canoeing is a great sport; one that doesn't require a lot of money to get into or to enjoy. You can canoe alone (solo) or with a partner (tandem), paddle on lakes or run rapids. Canoe clubs offer group fun, added safety and opportunities to paddle in and enjoy places you might not otherwise have tried.

Beginning with this issue of the Monitor we're starting a series on the "how-to" of canoeing written by John Foshee. John has canoed for about 35 years, was a co-founder of the Birmingham Canoe Club, and a member of and teacher for the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club and Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. He was a charter member of the Bama Backpaddlers of Birmingham, a group composed mostly of students of his River Canoeing Class at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, which he taught for fourteen years.

John has also written numerous articles on canoeing for various magazines. He is the author of three books: You Too, Can Canoe, a how-to tandem canoe guide; Solo Canoeing, a how-to solo canoe book and his most popular book, Alabama Canoe Rides and Float Trips, the only guide to the canoeing waters of Alabama.



## FIRST OFF

Let's start off with some concrete ideas. One is - there's a lot more to canoeing than meets the eye. To canoe well takes training and practice. Two - there's a reason for everything in canoeing, but in a series of short articles like these, I'm going to have to skip most of the "whys" and concentrate on the "hows". That way you can get right on out and start practicing. Just remember - there are variations and opinions of "how" in canoeing as in any sport. What these articles will tell you, however, are accepted, workable ways that will get you going. So - let's go!

## TYPES OF CANOEING

These articles will teach you to river canoe. River canoeing is moving water canoeing. That's different from lake canoeing which is still water canoeing. The difference is the current in the river. This current pushes on your canoe and it's always there. River canoeing techniques teach you to use this moving current or to negate some of its force. River techniques can be used safely on still water and some lake techniques work fine on a river but not all of them. So - don't get the two mixed up!

## BASIC EQUIPMENT

Canoe - Double-ended, between 15 and 17 feet long. At this stage material isn't real important and it can have a keel or not. Later you'll want a no-keel boat and an ABS or plastic hull. Be sure the seats in your canoe are high enough for ready clearance of your feet under the seats. You don't want a foot-trapper.

Life Jacket - This is called a P.F.D. (Personal Flotation Device). One for each person in the canoe is required by law. Get a vest-type, Coast Guard Type III. Adjust the vest to your body before you need it.

Paddles - Get two paddles (one is spare - they do break or get lost). Length - with the tip on the ground the grip should be between your nose and chin for starters. The blade should be at least seven inches wide. A "Tee" grip is excellent. Paddles with aluminum shafts and ABS blades and grips are good, economical starter paddles.

Knee Pads - Don't kneel on your PFD or anything loose. When it moves, so will you, and you need to be firmly fixed in the canoe. Rubber, strap-on pads with "treads" on their bottoms are good or you can glue a pad in the canoe hull where your knees rest.

Waterproof Container - For lunch, cameras, cigarettes or anything that can be hurt by water. Good and cheap is an army surplus ammo box about 12" x 5" x 7". Check it for water tightness before you entrust your gear to it.

## SOME GENERALITIES ON GEAR

1. Tie your glasses on if you wear them. String or an elastic strap will do.
2. Take your wallet out of your pocket. Put it in your waterproof container.
3. Tie your waterproof container in the canoe.
4. Have your spare paddle and PFD handy. Wear your PFD if you can't swim. Tie your spare paddle in as shown. Use string or light cord to tie the paddles in, something that can be broken with one sharp downward blow on the grip in case the knot jams.

## BASIC PADDLING (TANDEM)

1. Always paddle on the opposite side from your partner. This balances the boat better and equalizes the power better too. Later, you'll learn to do "cross strokes" in which both paddles are on the same side, but for now, stick to your side. You can swap sides to rest, but don't do it to steer. If one swaps, both swap!
2. Kneel in the canoe. Sitting on the seat makes the canoe tippy, shortens your paddle reach, makes you



unstable in the canoe and reduces the power you can put into a stroke. Use the "three-point" position - knees in the bilges, behind resting against the seat, most of your weight on your knees.

3. Have the proper grip on the paddle. Cup your hand over the grip so your palm is down. Your other hand should be a comfortable distance down the shaft. A good beginning hand separation is about 1 1/2 - 2 times your shoulder width. You can adjust from there.

4. Sit slightly to your paddle side.

There's a lot more I could say about what I've just said, but I want to get you out paddling, so here is your first stroke.

## FORWARD CORRECTION STROKE

The trouble most people have with a canoe is steering it. They swap sides or get up a little speed and trail the stern paddle in the water as a rudder. Both ways are wrong. There are several ways to correctly steer a canoe. This particular method is easy to learn, easy to do and is powerful. I call it the forward correction stroke as it both applies forward power and corrects your course. It is used only by the sternman.

First off, a canoe will always turn away from the sternman's paddle side. That's why people resort to swapping sides. In this stroke you're going to learn, you'll put some forward power on your paddle which will make it start to turn away from your paddle side then you will put some sideways power on the paddle that will make the canoe turn back to your paddle side. After you've practiced enough you'll be able to nicely balance these two forces so you can keep your canoe headed to where you want it.

Have your paddle length perpendicular to the water with the blade width perpendicular to the keel. This position is very important for efficient paddling although you may find it a little awkward at first. Both your hands will be out over the water. Submerge the blade. Twist slightly to your paddle side then reach forward with the paddle a comfortable distance and put the blade in the water as vertically as possible. Your lower arm is extended straight or almost straight. Your upper arm is bent at the elbow, and your upper hand will be near your left shoulder (if you're paddling on the left). This position does not give you a vertical paddle position, but this will be corrected as you begin the power part of the stroke.

Begin the stroke by pushing with your upper arm. To get to the vertical paddle position, you will push away from your initial position, diagonally forward and out over the gunwale. At the same time, pull with your lower arm, which will remain extended throughout the power part of the stroke. Thus, during the power part of the stroke both hands are outboard of the gunwale, and the lower hand always remains in this outboard position.

Keep the blade as close to vertical as you can during the stroke without it becoming awkward. Relax somewhat on the beginning of the forward part of the stroke then put the power into it when the blade is near vertical. Let the shaft follow the line of the gunwale with the aim of ending up with the shaft of the paddle nearly touching the gunwale when the paddle is about even with your hip.

When the paddle reaches this hip position, twist the shaft counterclockwise if you're paddling on the left, clockwise if you're on the right. Twist so your upper hand thumb rotates over and down toward the water. As you rotate your upper hand, simultaneously turn the lower hand so the lower hand knuckles rotate outboard and down toward the water. These motions, if done sufficiently, will turn the paddle blade up on its edge in the water. Your upper arm should now be nearly fully extended with the upper hand above and about in line with the gunwale on the paddle side.

The lower shaft of the paddle should be actually touching the gunwale in line with your hip, and your lower hand should be just above the gunwale but not touching the canoe. The paddle will be angled forward, blade behind your hip and the grip toward the bow. All or nearly all of the blade will be below the surface of the water. You have now finished the power part of your stroke.



*The forward correction stroke*

The correction part of the stroke, the part that actually "steers" the canoe, is applied by bringing the upper arm straight in across the boat literally "prying" off the gunwale. Don't raise the grip of the paddle as you pull across - your upper hand should stay about a foot above the top of the canoe. The lower hand does nothing but steady the paddle and keeps it in contact with the gunwale. Don't hold the paddle to the gunwale with your fingers.

To recover for another stroke, just relax your arms and let them continue on in the natural swing of the stroke so the upper hand ends about gunwale height above the water. The paddle blade will come to the surface naturally as you do this. DO NOT LIFT the paddle to recover it. Push down with the upper hand to raise the blade clear of the water a few inches, and swing the lower arm out and around in an arc toward the bow of the canoe so the paddle blade is more or less horizontal to the water. This is

called "feathering" the paddle and cuts down wind resistance and wave slap on your paddle. Keep your upper arm more or less straight, and let it swing back in toward your body. As it comes in across the gunwale, begin bending it and bringing the grip of the paddle diagonally upward toward your chin into position for starting another stroke.

### PRACTICING

Don't put a lot of power into these strokes at first. Concentrate on doing them correctly. Get the motions down; observe what your paddle strokes are making the canoe do. When you get that down, start kicking up your power but get control first!



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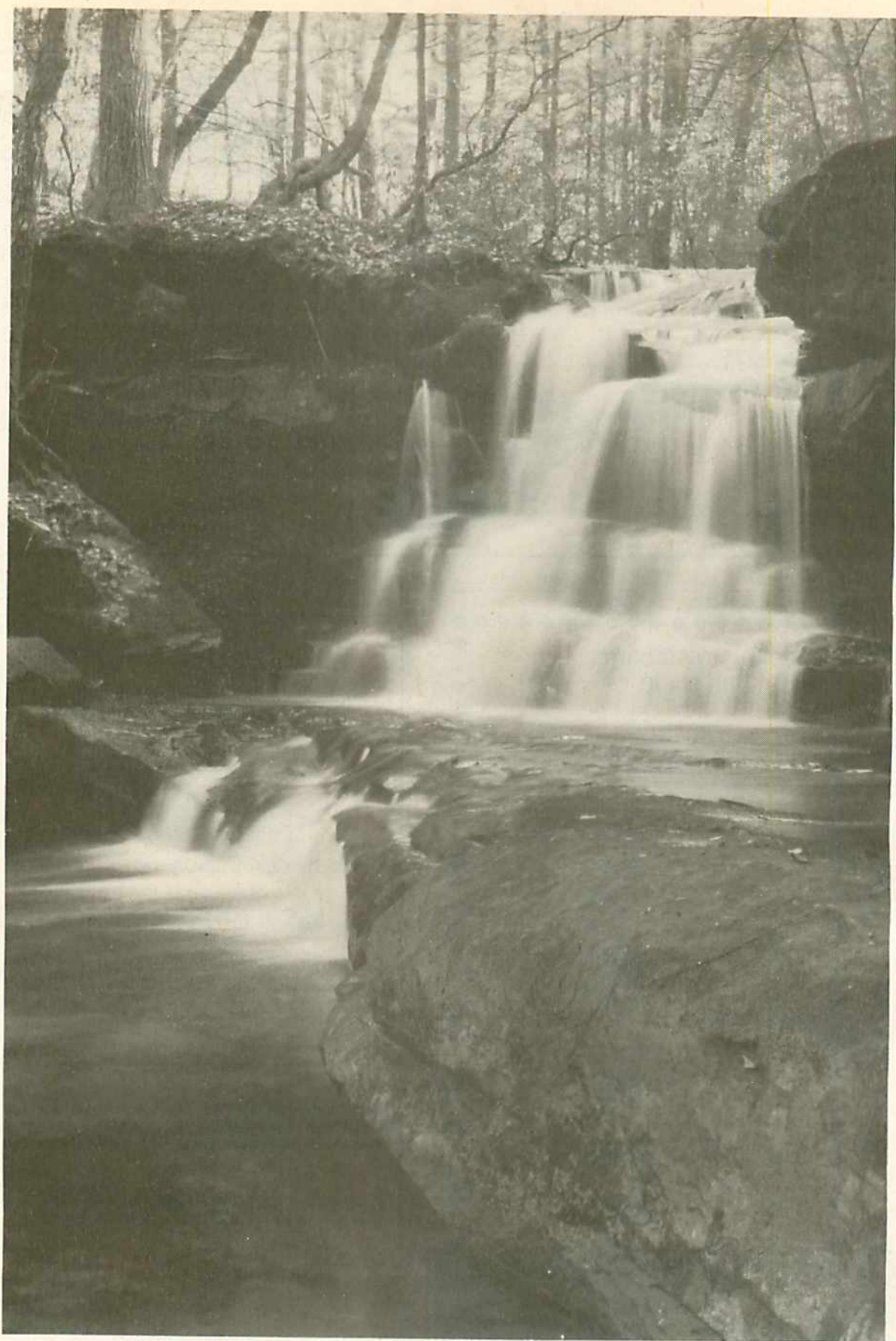


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*Parker Falls, photo by Wilson Craig*

# Stream Wading In Trackless Canyon

*By Jim Manasco*

Free from slippery rocks and crystal clear, Parker Branch flows over solid rock. Wading the branch is the only way to see the canyon. The shrubs on the banks are too thick to walk through and at times there are no banks present. Many places the bluff walls drop into the stream bed on both sides leaving the stream as the only passage. There is no way that you can walk Parker Branch without getting your feet wet so it is best just to get in the stream and walk up the canyon. It is the best place to walk and offers the best views.

One stretch of the creek bed near the cascades is flat and smooth as a sidewalk. This I call "the place of the spinning rocks". Here sand and water act together to drill pot holes in the bed rock. When a rock is dislodged from the bank and washed out on the flat bedrock, sand carried by the water begins to circle it. This action cuts round holes in the bed rock. With time the rock that started the process is eaten away leaving only the hole. These kind of holes are often thought to have been made by Indians.

If you go to this area and see the rocks in these pot holes please do not remove them so others can see the same. You will find these holes in this area in all stages of progress but once the rock is removed from the hole the action is stopped.

People have been coming to Parker for a long time. On a beech tree near the Indian shelter, someone carved his name and the date of February 13, 1881, over a hundred years ago. This carving is unusual in that it was not printed. There is another tree on the branch carved by Bill Tidwell in 1912. This is the year that the Bankhead National Forest was dedicated as the Cherokee National Forest and the name later changed.

The old land records show that this section of land that the branch flows through was never entered. I can only assume that the early visitors came to the canyon for the same reason that people do today as it is once again wilderness. Just for the peace and quiet or maybe to hunt. Some recent

visitors came a week ago for other reasons. The Indian shelter that had two fire pits neatly rocked, and a milling stone had remained just as the Indians had left it. Many people had seen the place and left it untouched. But last week the silence was broken by the sound of the pot hunters shovels. It is a shame that after all those years of the site remaining unspoiled, now that the area was finally preserved under law someone would ruin it.

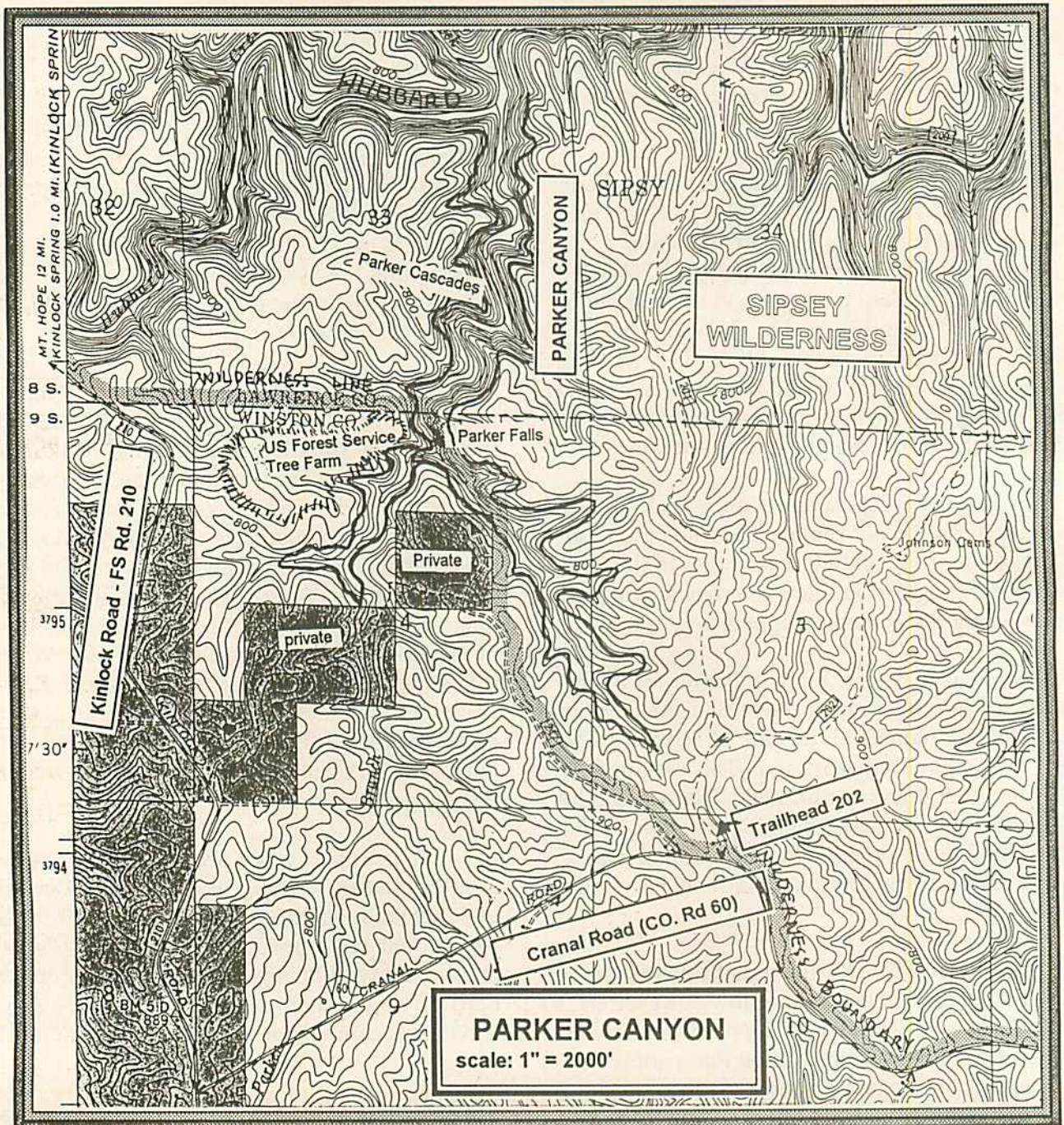
There are a lot of people that dream of getting rich and somehow get it into their heads that the best way is to find a treasure. This leads them to think that the Indians had some. I define that kind of thinking as crazy. The Indians of Alabama had nothing that the average American today would consider of any value other than their land and they stole all of that years ago.

There is a treasure here but few will find it. I know it is there, for I have seen it in Parker Falls, in the blooms of the cowcubers and mountain laurel. I have heard it in the rippling of the water and the distant muffled cry of a wood hen deep in a remote hollow. I have smelled it in the wind coming up from the creek where the swamp honeysuckles live, in the wiry root of the Virginia snake root and the wild ginger. People just do not realize how precious this little piece of real estate called the Sipsey Wilderness is. Twelve years ago a search was made to find a wilderness site in Alabama and this little place that is no bigger than a fly speck on a map was all that was left. You don't get a second chance with wilderness. It is either there or it is not.

I do get upset when people mistreat the wilderness, but these are very, very few. The mass majority of people that go into the area are the best. They are really great about not littering or destroying any of it, and treat it with loving care. Only rarely do we get a nerd carving his name for the world to see and leaving his camping gear and garbage behind.

The best way to see Parker Branch is to come in from the south on the Johnson Cemetery Road and follow trail 201 to Sipsey River. Where this trail reaches the canyon bottom at the river you are in King's Cove. This is the most unusual plant community in the wilderness and, it has a bluff shelter to spend the night in so no tent is needed. In the morning if you walk up the river to the first branch you are at the mouth of Parker. Parker Branch should have been named a creek rather than a branch because it is larger than many of the other streams in the forest that are called creeks.

Walking up the branch you will come to the cascades where the water runs over a rounded waterfall. Further up you will come to Parker Falls. Above this falls, the branch will fork. You should follow the left hand fork. This will lead you uphill to the blacktop road. Turn left on the black top and walk a hundred yards or so and you are back to your car.



# INDIAN HERBALOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA

## How It Can Help You

From *INDIAN HERBALOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA* by Alma R. Hutchens, c 1973. Reprinted by arrangement with Shambala Publications, Inc., 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02115

### **GINSENG PROLONGS LIFE**

Much has been written about Ginseng in the past issues of the *Monitor*. It is the King of Herbs in eastern North America. It was long known as green gold to the early settlers who found out that the Chinese long revered the "man-root" as a preserver and restorer of human vitality. Records indicate that the Native Americans also used the root. If we check out Ezekiel 27:17, we find that Ginseng was known to Judah in the marketplace of Israel. In those days commerce was carried on in the form of trade of valuable commodities. There were fewer commodities then, but the few traded were usually important. Wheat, honey, oil balm and pannag are mentioned in the Bible. The scientific name for Ginseng is *Panax quinquefolium*.

Alma R. Hutchens states in her book, *Indian Herbalogy of North America*, that "Father Jartoux, in 1679, after he noticed American Indians from the Ozarks and Blue Ridge country employing Ginseng as a medication, started exporting it to England. From there the East India Company sent it around the Cape of Good Hope and on to the Orient."

The following is excerpted from Hutchens' excellent book of nearly 400 pages on Native American medicine. This book is probably the best ever written on this subject. You can obtain a copy at our Warrior Mountains Trading Post.

Ginseng, combined with the juice of a good pineapple, is superior as a treatment for indigestion. It stimulates the healthy secretions of pepsin, thereby ensuring good

digestion without increasing the habit of taking pepsin or other after-dinner pills to relieve the fullness and distress so common to the American people. Ginseng has the known ability to penetrate the delicate tissue our blood fails to oblige, thus arousing the malfunction of the lymphatic glands.

It is a powerful antispasmodic and suggests its use in other spasmodic and reflex nervous diseases, such as whooping cough and asthma. For many people Ginseng has had beneficial results in the home for general strengthening and appetite, as well as to relieve eructations from the stomach, neuralgia, rheumatism, gout, irritation of bronchi or lungs from cold, gastroenteric indigestion, weak heart, spinal and nervous affection.

Ellingwood, speaking of the medical properties of Ginseng, says: "It is a mild sedative to the nerve



centers, improving their tone, and if persisted in, increases the capillary circulation of the brain." Dr. Raymond Bernard, A.B.M.A., PH.D., says "The term aphrodisiac should not be misunderstood, and we must differentiate between aphrodisiacal drugs which produce effects by irritation of the sexual centres and herbs like Ginseng which regenerate and rebuild the vitality but do not act by mere stimulation or irritation." A modern Chinese herbalist avows that it is "most energy giving, and is distinguished by the slowness and the gentleness of its actions."

Ginseng is known to give off organic radioactive rays resembling the Gartwitch rays of onions which stimulate vital processes in living cells. It is adaptable to the treatment of young children as well as the aged.

**Russian Experience:** The history of Ginseng has come through periods of belief and disbelief in many continents when laboratory technicians could not give explanations to its unalterable physiological and psychological accomplishment of centuries of belief. For the latest information on Ginseng you must go abroad. Up to 1964-65, Anglo-American literature did not pay too much attention to the long-held belief in the useful properties of Ginseng.

China has always been a good market for Ginseng, the highest prices being paid for old roots. About seventy years ago a Chinese Emperor sent a present of the best selected roots to a Russian Tzar. Being unaware and suspicious, the Russian official understandably thought it best to have the root analyzed to see why so much importance was given to this man-like root. The Military Academy of Medicine was elected for this purpose, as the international diplomat was a military figure. The top staff, heads of wisdom, could not find any health-giving properties after long and careful research. So, at this time Ginseng was thought of as a Chinaman's prejudice, and was once again rejected because of insufficient evidence for further scientific research. (This gift object was sent to St. Petersburg botanic museum, where it can be seen today.) This did not dampen the original thought of the Chinese, as they still came to the Russian Far East to collect and buy Russian and Manchurian Ginseng, which they considered the best. The price did not restrict their demands, as they would pay ten to twenty times more than gold, or the traditional oriental silver. Time and experience has led to plantations of Ginseng in Korea, China, Manchuria, and Japan.



In 1675 is the first record of Ginseng in Russia, experienced by Boyarin N. G. Sappary; 300 years later we consider their acceptance ahead in world research. Twenty-five years ago, team after team was sent to neighboring countries to study, on the spot, established plantations. The highly protected secret of this culture is not given charitably. Today, all information from observation and study leads us to Russia's own army of Ginseng specialists in all parts of Russia, but more especially in the Far East. All work and research is directed and co-ordinated by the Committee for Ginseng Research, which includes universities, institutes, laboratories, Agro-Technical methods, field work, plantations, publications, etc.

There are plantations of Ginseng in the Russian Far East, Moscow regions, Bello-Russia (White Russia) and the Caucasus (Bello-Russ. Acad, 1965). In the past, Russian Ginseng was always exported from a wild source, but today the cultivated plant is exported, being collected in August.

Lengthy study and research of Chinese belief in the Folk Medicine of Ginseng, not only confirms fundamental impressions but has opened new horizons to its proven value beyond reality ("Vishaya Scholla", Moscow, 1963).



We wish to mention two monographs we have on hand of the Siberian branch of the Academy of Science. One work was published in 1960, with 1,500 copies printed (usually Herbal book publications run to 100,000-200,000). It contains 248 pages, and a few hundred authors contributed 5-10 pages each, as a collective work of 5-8 different teams.

Another work, compiled by one author, is a 342 page book dealing with the biological aspect of Ginseng. Here the author refers to bibliographies of all available languages, but mostly original works and research of Russian experience.

In North America we think of Ginseng as the slow-growing herb, as it takes from five to seven years before the root is considered usable. To find a plant fifty years old is considered sensational, as collectors usually find the plant before they reach this age. The age is told by the rings around the plant.

The older roots in North America are uncommon, but theoretically the older the root the smaller should be the dose.

In the Far East there are plants that have reached the age of 100, 200 and even 400. Some Hong Kong roots sell for 500 dollars per ounce. A five- to ten-year-old root will weigh only a few ounces, but a 200-300-year-old one will weigh nearly 1lb. The youngest Ginseng is used in large amounts, 1 teaspoonful to each cup. The old Ginseng requires careful use, starting with 1 drop a day and adding extra drops day by day. If too much is taken, bleeding will start, as the old root is very strong.

There are many beautiful common names for Ginseng: Root of life, Root of man, Santa root, Seed of earth, Panax, Panacea, Life for ever lasting, etc. (Moscow University, 1963)

After having had the history, research data and facts, we are sure you will be interested in its uses. In short, it prolongs life (Saraton University, 1962).

In Russia they recommend to all people over forty to have six weeks (forty-two days) of consecutive daily intake of Ginseng twice a year. This will regenerate the glands and invigorate the blood, thus bringing the properties of Ginseng to the endocrine system. This activates metabolism, improves blood circulation, and positively activates the kidneys,



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bladder, liver, etc. In general, an over-all tonic.

Ginseng increases vitality by carefully improving the condition. The activating process improves the mental, physical, and spiritual efficiencies of the brain, so inducing better feeling, sleep, appetite, and well-being. Ginseng has a long list of accomplishments when other means have failed.

It is not only used as a physical restorative, but acts psychologically for tiredness of heart and blood circulation, sugar diabetes, depressions, neurasthenia, neurosis, psychasthenia. You may be interested in the properties of this plant as a special study, but the above mentioned is impressive as it is.

In Russia, Ginseng is used, of course, as Nastoika (with vodka) and as tea and powder. Clinically, in the form of extracts, pills, tablets, capsules.

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## NATURAL DIVERSITY CRUCIAL

By Katherine Bouma

Reprinted from the *Montgomery Advertiser's* series entitled "Alabama, The Big Tree Farm."

Why should it matter if timber harvests extinguish a tiny, mud-dwelling amphibian that survives in five south Alabama counties?

The Red Hills Salamander might never contribute to the state's economic, medical, or social well-being. It's certainly not adding much beauty or recreational value to the state.

But, like a canary in a coal mine, it might be a signal that something is very wrong with the planet.

Scientists say that ecosystems become more precarious every time they lose a bacterium, fungus, plant, or animal. Not everyone is a keystone species, the one that holds the ecosystem together, but scientists have only the most rudimentary understanding of the job of many organisms. "We talk about how this species is connected to that species, and we get the idea that it's a few points connected on a line," said Ed Passerini, a University of Alabama professor of environment and humanities. "No, it's not that way. It's that this species is connected to this species, while it's being connected to this species, while it's being connected to this species and so on. It's far more complicated than any diagram we could ever devise, any language could ever describe, especially primitive things like English or mathematics."

As a result, scientists don't know howling extinctions can continue without ruining Earth for the plants and animals absolutely necessary for human survival. The smallest organisms are the least known, but also the most abundant. Edward O. Wilson, one of the world's foremost experts on biological diversity, estimates that 4,000 to 5,000 bacteria exist in a pinch of soil. That leads scientists to believe small, unknown species also are the most crucial.

"Things that people don't think are very important are very important in the fabric of the world," said George Folkerts, an Auburn University field biologist. "We couldn't get along without the maggots."

Worldwide, species disappear everyday, some before they are even catalogued. We are in the midst of the sixth great "extinction spasm" of the world's history, Dr. Wilson wrote in "The Diversity of Life."

"The extinction of species has been much worse than even field biologists, myself included, previously understood," he wrote. "Any number of rare local species are disappearing just beyond the edge of our attention.

"They enter oblivion... leaving at most a name, a fading echo in the far corner of the world, their genius unused."

Scientists are still so ignorant of the natural world that they don't know whether the number of species on Earth totals 10 million or 100 million, says Dr. Wilson, a native Alabamian.

Dr. Passerini said, "We are blowing away species faster than ever and we don't even know what species are out there."

Dr. Wilson, who teaches at Harvard University, said every plant and animal has performed billions of acts of natural selection during millions of years and now has a special ability or trait that enabled it to survive. That trait may provide the gene for an important crop, fiber, energy source, or medicine, he wrote.

Forty percent of the pharmaceutical prescriptions filled each year are derived from plants, animals, or microorganisms, he wrote.

Habitat destruction is responsible for the current extinction phase, Dr. Wilson said. Humans are the first animals to become a geophysical force, altering the face of Earth so that other species can no longer survive on it, he said.

Some naturalists also worry that, in the words of Georgia woodlands manager Leon Neel, "we dehumanize ourselves when we destroy the land."

Dr. Wilson quotes studies showing that patients recuperate from surgery more quickly when they can view natural landscapes. He also says that people will always choose, rather than any urban view, to look at natural landscapes.

They are especially drawn to grassy savannas similar to those found in Africa, the birthplace of the human race. That suggests a primal, human link to nature far beyond the understanding of physicians and other scientists.

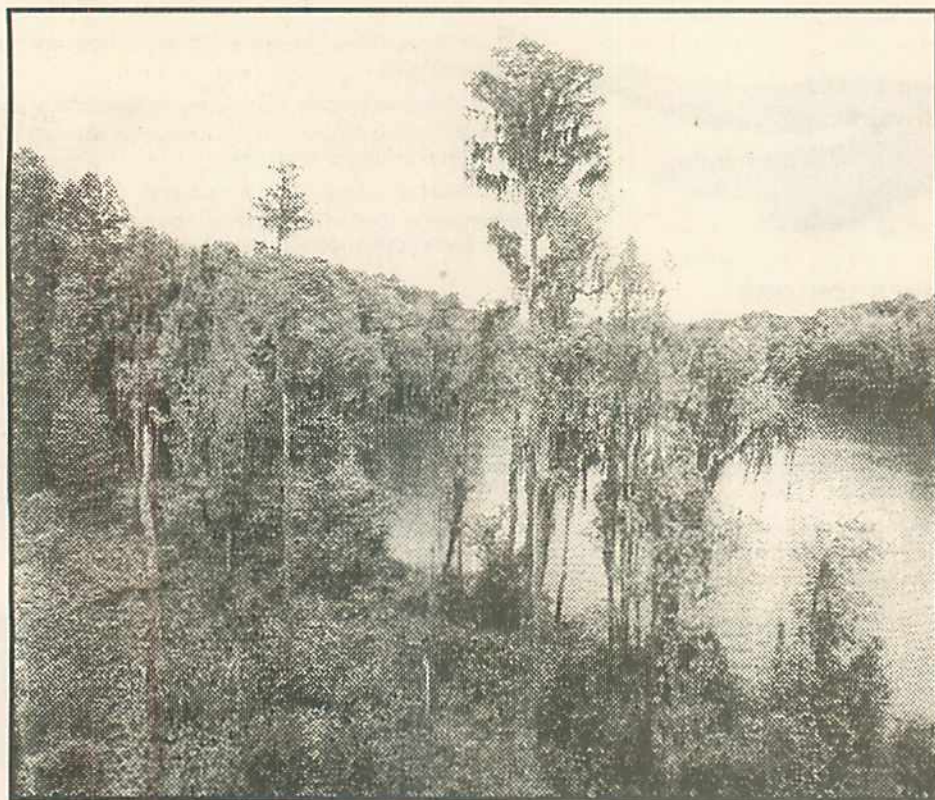
Although science is far from determining the importance of nature to the human mind or soul, Dr. Wilson said, the salvation of humans might lie in setting aside the ecosystems, habitats, and beautiful, ancient, natural areas for people to enjoy.

Alabama is still one of the most diverse places in the United States, and even the world. It has as many different species of snakes as anywhere on Earth, with 40 species in south Alabama alone, Dr. Wilson said.

Alabama also is home to as many freshwater fish and mollusk species as anywhere in the United States.

However, worldwide, one-fifth of the freshwater fish species are extinct or endangered. Alabama is number 3 in the nation for plants and animals listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

"What's important for Alabama, is clearly more land put aside as natural reserves to preserve its beauty and diversity of plants and animals," Dr. Wilson said. "Alabama is an exceptionally beautiful state and its natural beauty and extraordinary diversity of life from the Gulf waters to the Appalachian mountains of the northeast should be cultivated."



Alabama's fast disappearing wetlands, such as this area near Prattville, are critical to the survival of many species.

*Photo from Montgomery Advertiser by Lloyd Gallman/Staff*

# ALABAMA



# DIVERSITY LOST

## ALABAMIANS IMPERILED BY FORESTRY

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser* from *Vertebrate Animals of Alabama in need of Special Attention*, Auburn University and *World Book Encyclopedia*

### IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

- Lived in hardwood river bottoms and swamps in Alabama
- Its last official sighting in Alabama was in the Conecuh River swamps of Pike County in the first part of this century. Its last U.S. sighting was in East Texas, although it is suspected to survive in the mountains of Cuba.
- Much of its wetland habitat has been drained, cleared and converted to use for agriculture and pine plantations. It is also thought to have needed very large, unbroken blocks of habitat that are no longer available.

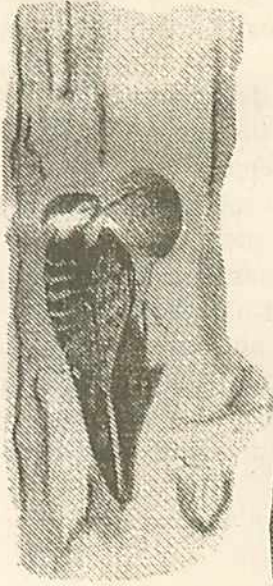


RANGE



### RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

- Lives in open pine woods, in living, mature pines with dead hearts from which it digs out nest cavity.
- Travels through open pine woods in small bands, searching limbs, twigs and cones for small insects, which make up most of its diet.
- Culling of "substandard" trees and increasingly extensive areas devoted to short-rotation forestry have greatly reduced red-cockaded woodpecker populations. Commercial trees must be cut before they rot.

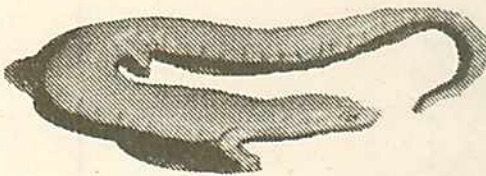


RANGE



### RED HILLS SALAMANDER

- Burrowing animal lives in forested ravine slopes and bluffs dominated by hardwood trees.
- In undisturbed habitat, the salamander spends all of its time in burrow system. On warm, humid, moonless nights, will appear at mouth of burrow, apparently to feed on forest-floor insects and spiders.
- Amount of suitable habitat remaining for the Red Hills salamander was last estimated, in 1988, at 30,000 acres. The red Hills salamander is unique in that it is possibly the only amphibian species native only to Alabama.

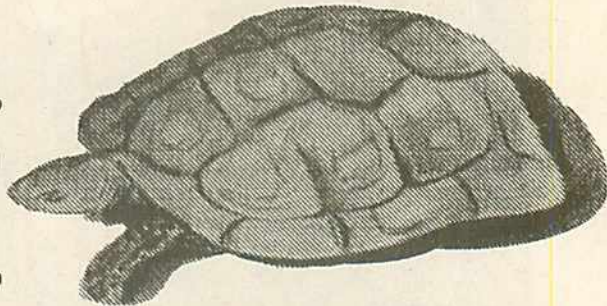


RANGE



### GOPHER TORTOISE

- Lives in sandhill areas — dry, sandy or gravelly soils in longleaf pine/scrub oak habitats and in planted pine stands open enough to support herbaceous vegetation. Specimens have been reported up to 13 1/2 inches in length and 12-inch specimens are not uncommon.
- Feeds on various species of grasses, fleshy fruits in season and wild legumes. Its burrows range from five to nine feet deep and can be inhabited by as many as 30 other species.
- Rapid loss and alteration of sandhills habitat has caused population decline. Gopher tortoise is severely affected by changes in its habitat. It is also widely exploited for food by people.

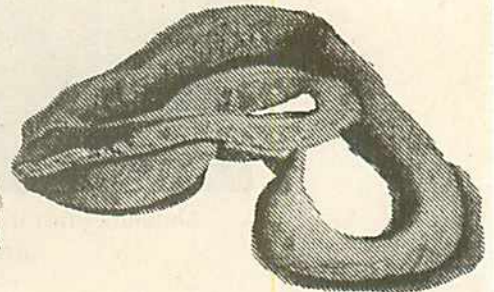


RANGE



### INDIGO SNAKE

- Large, fairly stout, non-poisonous species, with adults averaging about six-feet. Largest recorded size is 8 1/2 feet. Active during the day, the indigo snake preys on small animals including other snakes, frogs, toads, lizards, small mammals and birds.
- Sandhills resident, lives in areas typified by longleaf pine, scrub, dwarf and turkey oak, and wiregrass. the indigo snake uses the gopher tortoise's burrow both as a refuge and a wintering site. In summer, it tends to move from the sandhills to farm fields and stream-bottom thickets.
- Agricultural and forestry practices have destroyed or drastically altered thousands of acres of indigo snake habitat. Thousands more acres have been lost to residential development. Practice of pouring gasoline into gopher tortoise burrows to drive out rattlesnakes has also hurt.



RANGE

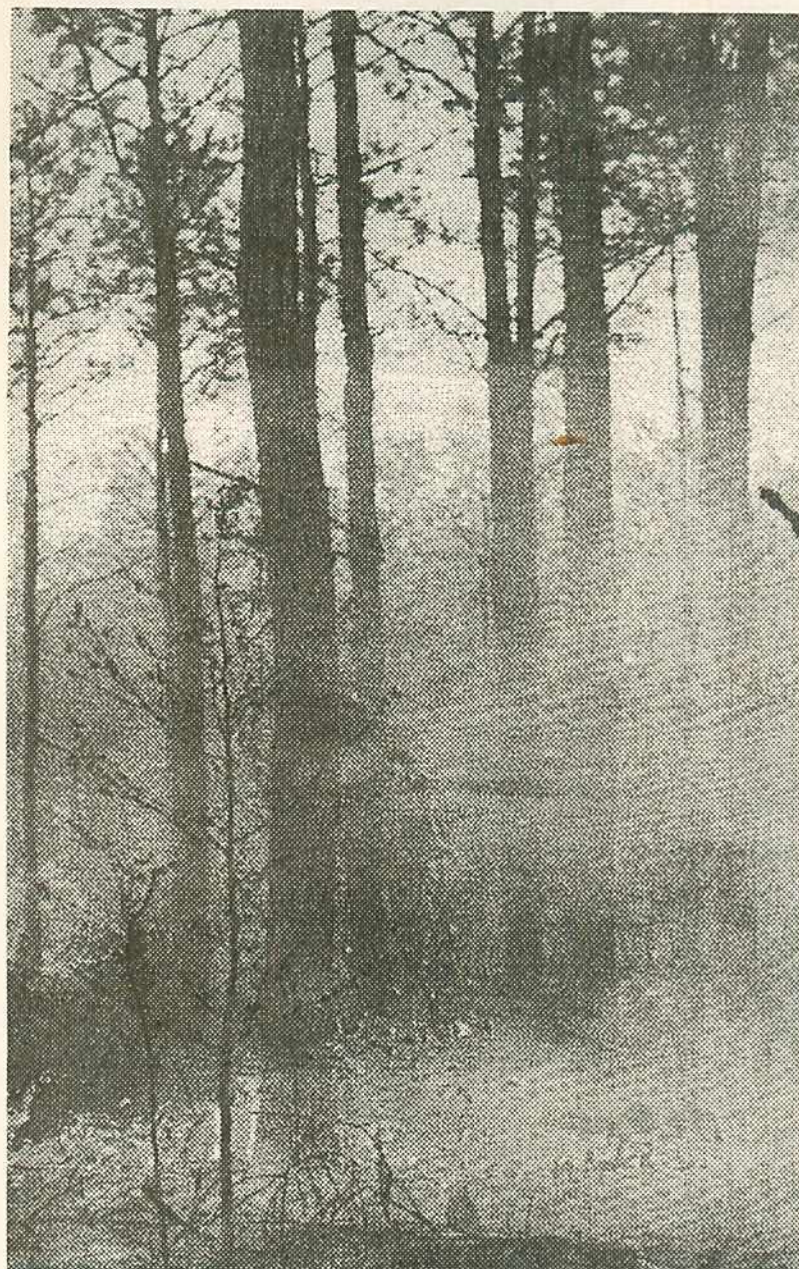


# A Blessing or A Curse

## FIRE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN HISTORY

By: Coleen Vansant, Forest Education Specialist,  
Alabama Forestry Commission

Legend holds that ancient peoples regarded fire, along with air, water, and land, as a basic element of the universe. The Greeks believed that Prometheus gave fire to man as a gift, angering Zeus who believed fire should be reserved only for the gods. While Prometheus had brought fire to man as a blessing, Zeus ordained that it should become a curse as well.



*A properly executed burn will consume fuel on the forest floor and leave trees uninjured.*

A gift from Prometheus or a curse from Zeus? That question is still being asked today among people inside and out of the forestry profession.

Prescribed burning is probably the working forester's most valuable tool, and by no means is it a new one. Planned burning of the forests of North and Central America was conducted by native Americans for hundreds of years before explorers first touched the soils of this continent.

According to free-lance ecologist Charles Kay, "the Americas as first seen by Europeans were not as they had been created by God, but as they had been created by native peoples."

Kay adds that pre-Columbian America was not a "wilderness waiting to be discovered." It was home to tens of millions of native peoples who "structured entire plant and animal communities" by limiting wildlife populations with their hunting and "purposefully modifying vegetation with fire."

The native American lifestyle throughout the southeast during the time when the first Spanish explorers arrived can be best described as being dependent upon a combination of farming, hunting and fishing, and gathering natural foods and materials. Because of their lifestyle, Indians used open burning as a means to tame the forest.

The Indian was much more of a farmer than generally supposed. According to noted English botanist William Bartram in the journals of his late 1700's travels through Alabama, the fields adjacent to the ancient Apalachula in Russell County were "stretching beyond the scope of sight." The Spanish reported that the Indians, "by means of clear-

ings and burnings had deforested from 30 to 40 acres for each individual in the tribes.”

In 1540, De Soto gazed about him and saw no wilderness. Central Alabama was covered with the Indians' fields of corn and beans, stretching from one village to the next.

Fires provided better access to the forest and made travel by native Americans much easier. It improved forage for wildlife, increased visibility for hunting and cleared land from brush and trees so that crops could be planted.

Since there are no photographs or video footage of what the forests of the Americas looked like prior to European exploration and settlement, we have to depend on the written accounts of these explorers, travelers, and settlers to get a picture of what the resources looked like.

The Indians widespread burning of the land kept the natural vegetation under control, particularly the trees, and provided an extremely diverse habitat for game. In 1663 Don Carlos de Sequenaz reported “the meat and game which are eaten include deer, buffalo, bear and native hens...” He was describing the area between Pensacola and Mobile. Other early reports indicate that at one time bison roamed much of the southeastern United States. The prairie situation created by the extensive annual burning by the Indians helped to provide an excellent habitat for the bison, as well as other species of animals and game that do not exist here today.

Philip Henry Gosse, an Englishman who taught school at Pleasant Hill in Dallas County, in 1838, remarks that, “The ground is commonly clear of underwood to a remarkable degree, so that it is by no means unusual for hunters to pursue their game on horseback at full speed through these sylvan recesses.”

Bartram described grassy savannas of scattered longleaf pines, abundant cane, and narrow groves of hardwood forests on the banks of streams within the lower coastal plains of the South. This was evidence that the Indians were still practicing burning in this area.

He wrote of “vast open forests without any considerable variation,” almost entirely hardwood species, in the upper coastal plains of Alabama.

Finally, he described “grand, high forests of stately trees,” again almost entirely hardwoods though of different species, in the Appalachian and Piedmont mountains of Carolina through present day Alabama.

By the mid-1700's when a large influx of British and French settlers had arrived the forest they encountered was somewhat different from what the Spanish had described. One of the key factors for this is because of the millions of native Americans that died after being exposed to European diseases brought to them by the Spanish. Some reports indicate that as much as 60 to 80 percent of the native American population was destroyed by disease.

Because of the massive decrease in population, the Indian society had conducted less frequent and intense burning the last 150 to 200 years. This had allowed natural plant succession to increase both the quality and quantity of hardwood and pine stocking.

The relatively unpopulated South enticed many settlers during this time. Their first need was open land on which to build their homesteads, grow their crops and graze their livestock. They also used fire

*It wasn't until the first quarter of this century that forest professionals began looking at fire as a forest management tool.*

as a means to control diseases and insects, and even to protect their homes and property from the ravages and destruction of wildfire.

Although they did not use fire as extensively as the Indians did, fire was used as a means to clear land. In pioneer days, the smoke from “settler fires” was considered a sign of progress.

While natural and man-caused fires still continued, it was at less frequent intervals so that the forests had a greater chance to regenerate themselves, with pine and hardwood quantity and quality increasing.

One of the best examples of this, according to Erhard Rostlund, University of California, Berkley, is “the pathless and difficult forest with its tangle of brush that gave its name to the Wilderness Campaign of 1864 in Virginia, occupied the same land as did Captain John Smith's open groves with much good ground between without any shrubs. Paradoxical as it may seem, there was undoubtedly much more forest primeval in 1850 than in 1650.”

After the War Between the States, the South's

forest resource was looked at in a very different way. The expansion west, reconstruction, and a growing forest dependent industry placed a greater demand on the forests of the southeast. Railroads, telegraph lines, lumber, furniture, charcoal production and the wood pulp making process were just a few of the products that were in demand. Industrialization and mechanization of the southern forest products industry increased its capability to harvest timber and produce the needs and desires of the American public.

At this same time and into the early 1900's, people began to have a fear of fire. Twenty to fifty million acres of land burned each year because of wildfire. A conservation effort, led by men like John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, led to many laws directed towards fire protection. By the 1950's acres burned by wildfire had been reduced to around 15 million acres per year. Today, three to five million acres are lost to wildfire annually.

It wasn't until the first quarter of this century that forest professionals began looking at fire as a forest management tool. The type of fire used today in forest management is very different from the types of fires utilized by native Americans. Indians made little or no effort to confine their fires. There were no fire control resources. The only fire breaks were the natural ones provided by rivers, streams and swamps. Fires spread to areas of adjacent woodlands and previous clearings. The fire burned until it came to a natural barrier, burned itself out, or was rained out.

Today, prescribed burning is described as the deliberate setting of a fire to a specified purpose under carefully controlled conditions. It is used to reduce hazardous fuels in the forest, dispose of logging debris, to prepare sites for seeding or planting, improve wildlife habitat, manage competing vegetation, control insects and diseases, improve forage for grazing, and to enhance appearance and improve access.

In the South, approximately 8 million acres of land is prescribe-burned each year for forest management, range, and agricultural purposes.

Fire has been a part of our nation's forest environment for thousands of years. It has a very definite role to play in forest management. With today's environmental concerns, more care must be taken by the forestry professional to ensure that fire plays its natural role while at the same time not threatening environmental values.



New Life (Oak Leaf Hydrangea) springs forth from a prescribed burn.

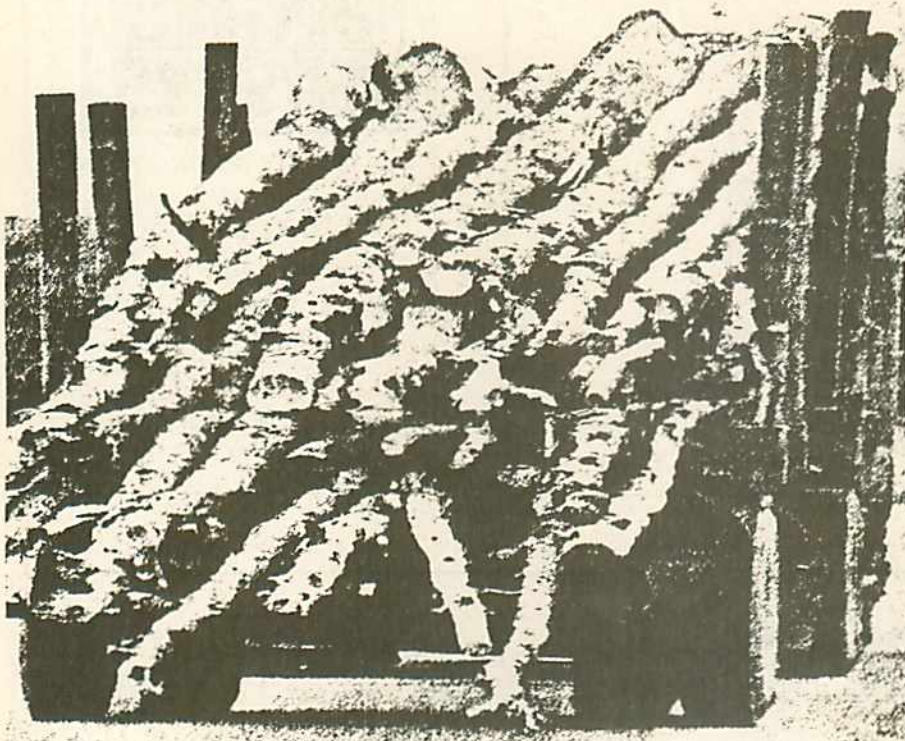
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# A Spirit of Change?

## *Champion's Move Toward Sustainability and Stewardship*



by Barbara Gaddy

One of the most important things that we can do as defenders of the forest is to act as watchdogs against destructive forest management practices. However, we are not the only ones who claim to support the concept of sustained forestry. Since the American Forest and Paper Association's passage of new Sustainable Forestry Principles and Implementation Guidelines on October 14, 1994, many of the major paper companies have jumped on the sustainable forestry bandwagon and developed their own guidelines for sustainability. Champion International is one of these companies.

According to Champion, their "forest management philosophy" is one of "sustainability - ensuring that people's needs from the forest are met today as well as in the future." When asked if Champion's current forest management practices and rate of timber extraction could be considered sustainable for the next 100 or 200 years Larry Davis, the company's Forest Land Manager for the Alabama Region, responded with a clear and definite "yes."

Champion believes that they are among the most progressive and environmentally responsible of the paper companies. Their new Sustainability and Stewardship program, which follows the American Forest and Paper Association rules, outlines their strategy for greater sustainability.

This is where the *Monitor* and the public come in. We are the ones who have to make sure that Champion backs up their promises with action. The paper company has no task force set up to ensure that the new guidelines are enforced, but they are asking for continuous input from the public. We must remain vigilant! The following are some of the highlights of what we can expect from the "new and improved" Champion International.

### **On Company Land:**

- \* Champion will meet or exceed all regulations that protect public resources.
- \* Promote habitat diversity.
- \* Involve outside organizations in evaluation and management of Special Places.
- \* Enhance landscape diversity and provide an array of habitats.
- \* Develop utilization guidelines based on aesthetics, habitat diversity, nutrient cycling, customer needs and economics.

### On Non-Fee Wood Sources:

- \*Champion will encourage reforestation and Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- \* Further improve professionalism of loggers.
- \* Define and implement inventory management plans and procurement practices consistent with principles of sustainability.

### In Public Reporting:

- \* Champion will publicly report progress.
- \* Involve the public and forestry community in furthering sustainability.

### On all Public and Private Lands in the U.S.:

- \* Champion will promote stewardship and sustainability in all forest ownerships.

Should Champion follow through on their claims, we can expect to see some major differences in their management practices in this region. The Courtland Mill is, according to the *Decatur Daily*, Feb. 10th, 1994, the largest white paper mill in the world. Changes made here could therefore have a ripple-effect on other companies.

Champion is one of about 15 paper mills located in Alabama. The Courtland Mill is located on the Tennessee River in northern Lawrence County on 2,200 acres of land. Each year, this plant consumes one hundred million cubic feet of wood. This astronomical number of trees comes not only from Champion's 400,000 acres of land, but also from private landowners. Around 1800 people are employed by the mill.

When I talked with Mr. Davis, he stated, "No one is more concerned about the long term than we are."

We must wait and see if the implementation of these sustainable practices really occurs, or if "sustainable" is really just another term for business as usual. Will Champion International enhance wildlife habitats and preserve biodiversity? Or is Champion just another company climbing aboard the bandwagon of "sustainable forestry"?

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# THE EAGLE BEAR CLAN OF THE FREE CHEROKEES

Many persons in Alabama consider the last public, native forests to be much more than a commodity to be used for timber extraction. There exists in the spirits and souls of the descendants of the first hunter gatherers who were born, lived and died in the wilds of Alabama, a deep-rooted feeling of connectedness that transcends the barriers of time.

The balance of the multitude of the forces of nature and the universe creates the natural world. Managed tree farms cannot substitute for primeval forests.

One such relic of the land and time is Dove, a Native American who lives west of the Bankhead National Forest.

Dove was born in Hamilton, Alabama of parents of Cherokee descent. Her father died when she was a baby. When she was in her twenties, her father's first cousin took her to sacred sites in Marion County that he said were sacred to her father. These sites contained petroglyphs and burial sites. When she visited these sites she felt close to her father.

At five years of age, Dove, also known as Wanda Tice, moved to Michigan with her mother and stepfather. At 14, she moved back to Alabama and was told by her father's mother that she was Native American. She wanted her to know her roots and who she was. Her grandmother told her that her family escaped the Trail of Tears. They were forced to hide in caves and became known as Black Dutch to hide their identity. They feared being sent out west to the Indian reservations.

Dove is the mother of two sons - Darius, 17 and Uriah, 14.

The Bankhead Forest is significant to Dove in many ways. Importantly, she feels that it ties her to the past. While the private wild places of north Alabama continue to be developed and destroyed, the national forests represent the last hope for many Native Americans to be guaranteed places of refuge in a modern world.

Dove and her friends, as well as members of the Eagle Bear Band, walk the forest seeking ancient ties to the lands that their ancestors revered. They have held drummings and prayer pipes in Kinlock Rock Shelter.

*"Fighting To Save The Last Wild Places."*



The Eagle Bear Band is a Native American clan which is part of a confederacy of the Free Cherokees headquartered in Maryland.

Her father's cousin also told her that the name Dove was the name of an 1800's ancestor on her father's side of the family. Her name was Morning Dove White. Her daughter's name was Mapi White.

Dove's family tree is very interesting. Her mother is listed as 1/4 Indian (Creek, Choctaw, Sac & Fox and Cherokee), and her father was 17/32 Cherokee. From there back, almost every limb of the family tree is adorned with Indian ancestry.

About 12 years ago, Dove began to work with the young and old in Native American spirituality. Last year a cultural and spiritual retreat was established near Hamilton, Alabama. It is called Rainbow Bridge. The activities are open to all races and creeds.

Many ceremonies are offered to the public. Among them are the Coming Into Adulthood Ceremony, Sweat Lodges, Pipe Prayer Ceremony, and the Medicine Wheel Ceremony.

"Our culture provides the path to the lifestyle of our ancestors; not only for Native Americans but also those with Red Hearts from all four directions. We strive to serve the needs of our Band, our community, the Animal Nations, the Earth Mother, and the Great Spirit. Education is the key to our strength," she says.

Dove is available for lectures and seminars for all age groups in schools, social clubs, civic clubs and church groups.

For more information on how you can contact or visit with Chief Dove and the Eagle Bear Band, phone (205) 921-2589, or write to her at Route 2 Box 310, Hamilton, AL 35570.



"To be Indian is to live in the balance of nature. To be Indian is to be grateful for the bounty of the earth and respect all creatures who live on the planet. To be Indian is to seek peace and harmony."

*Dove*



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# WOODCRAFT

## Fire For Survival

by Darryl Patton

In February of this year, a group of Rangers from Fort Benning, Georgia were undergoing advance testing in the swamps of North Florida prior to graduation. They were dropped off at one end of the swamp and were expected to cross it and attack an objective at the other end. Wading through chest deep water, they thought the training exercise would last a couple of hours. Instead, what followed was an eight hour nightmare with four of the rangers dying from hypothermia in the fifty degree water. A few days after this tragedy, a group of scouts on Cheaha mountain outside of Anniston, Alabama became lost and spent a cold, rainy night on the mountain before being found the next day. While these two incidents had different outcomes, they shared one thing in common - A LACK OF COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS.

Most people in the South never realize that it is possible to die of hypothermia or exposure to the cold in our warm and sunny climate, but every year one or two people in this area wander away from a campsite, become lost and succumb to the elements. In adverse circumstances is one of the most important skills you can learn prior to it takes is a moment to become disoriented and lost. You may simply spend a possibly even find yourself in a life and fire warm you and cook your food, it is a dispelling the darkness. It will lift you find your way back to civilization in the



The ability to produce a fire under important skills you can learn prior to it takes is a moment to become disoriented and lost. You may simply spend a possibly even find yourself in a life and fire warm you and cook your food, it is a dispelling the darkness. It will lift you find your way back to civilization in the

In the next couple of issues we will take a look at some of the most common methods available for producing fire in an emergency situation. First, we will consider the fire starters you should carry in your pocket and survival kit. Finally, we will end up teaching you the basics of producing a fire under primitive conditions in which no tools may be available other than those you can produce from nature.

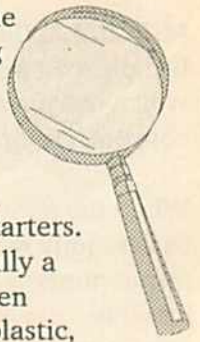
look at some of the most common methods available for producing fire in an emergency situation. First, we will consider the fire starters you should carry in your pocket and survival kit. Finally, we will end up teaching you the basics of producing a fire under primitive conditions in which no tools may be available other than those you can produce from nature.

**BUTANE LIGHTERS AND WATERPROOF MATCHES** - The very first thing I would remember to pack in any survival kit would be a new butane lighter and some waterproof matches. Both are excellent sources of fire in an emergency although they do have their drawbacks.

Butane lighters need to be checked periodically for leaks and they are notorious for refusing to work in cold weather or if they get wet. Matches, whether they are waterproof or simply the kitchen 'strike anywhere' type, need a secondary source of ignition such as a rock, zipper or other hard, dry object. If you decide to carry either a butane lighter or matches, it is extremely important to place them in a waterproof container which will keep out moisture. It is also a good idea to periodically test them, as butane will eventually evaporate and matches deteriorate with time and become useless.

**MAGNESIUM FIRE STARTER** - Available at Wal Mart or just about any sporting goods store, these small blocks of pure magnesium are fantastic fire starters. With hundreds of fires contained in each three inch block, they are hard to beat in a survival situation. To use these, simply scrape off a quarter-sized pile of shavings from the block. Next, holding your knife at a 90 degree angle, vigorously scrape the length of the flint imbedded on the opposite side of the block. This will produce more than enough sparks to ignite the magnesium shavings. The resultant 2,000 degree fire will catch just about anything you have on fire, includ-

wood. If you are in a windy situation, place the magnesium shavings in a small depression in the ground for better results. The only disadvantage to these fire starters is the necessity of having a knife with which to produce the sparks. Weighing only 1.4 ounces, and unaffected by submersion in water, a magnesium fire starter should find its way into every fire and survival kit. Throw one in your pocket just for good measure.



**GERBER STRIKE FORCE** - Manufactured by the Gerber company, this is the ultimate in fire starters. The Strike Force is four and a half inches of pure fire power! It is only 3.7 ounces and is basically a glorified piece of flint and steel, but boy does it ever throw a shower of sparks. I have never seen anything that can compare with the barrage of hot sparks it produces. It is encased in orange plastic, and like the magnesium fire starter, is good for hundreds of lights. The Strike Force does come with a small piece of artificial tinder packed in the plastic handle, but since it doesn't have any magnesium to be scraped into a pile and ignited, it is still more dependent upon having a good dry source of tinder available. Dry cedar bark, charred cloth, mouse or bird nests and dry grasses work well. In fact, I just took a short break from writing this article, went outside and with one try caught a small birdsnest of cedar bark on fire.

**FLINT AND STEEL** - While too primitive for some modern survivalists and too modern by those of us 'purists' who would rather head off to the woods with a bow drill, flint and steel has a long history of use by primitive societies. Carried in a waterproof container to keep the char cloth dry, it produces more than enough hot sparks to produce a fire. You can order a commercial flint and steel kit or easily produce your own. All you need is a piece of high carbon steel and some flint, chert or other hard type of quartzite.

With the exception of very dry fluffy what is known as char cloth in which to possible char cloth, buy some kerosene fitting lid. First, poke a small hole in the Next cut a wick into three pieces and of a stove burner set on high. Make sure process will smell the house up. As the stream of smoke will rise and then charred. At this point turn off the stove the top of the can. Once the can is cool to the touch you can open it and check the wicks. The pieces should be dark black which means they will catch and hold a spark well. If they are still somewhat brown in color, place them back on the stove and repeat the process.

*Carefully made, a bow drill is a thing of beauty, capable of producing a fat, glowing coal in a matter of seconds.*

cedar bark, it is necessary to use catch the spark. To make the best wicks and a small can with a tight top of the can with a finishing nail. place in the can. Place the can on top the room is well ventilated as this three pieces of wick slowly char, a subside as the wicks become and place a penny over the hole in

To strike flint and steel, hold the flint between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. Between the forefinger and middle finger hold the char cloth. With the striker in your right hand, limply swing it down and across the flint, throwing sparks down into the char cloth. A few swings should be enough to direct a spark onto the cloth. You can also lay the cloth down on a piece of dry bark directing the sparks down and onto it. Once the char cloth catches a spark, blow it into life and place it in your tinder bundle.

**MAGNIFYING GLASS** - A magnifying glass makes an excellent addition to any survival kit. It can be a standard magnifying glass or even the lenses from a pair of binoculars, camera or small telescope. By directing the intense rays of the sun, it is possible to rapidly produce a fire. This is also a highly portable source of fire due to its size and lack of weight. Of course, you still need a secondary source of ignition such as char cloth, cedar bark, or some other fine dry tinder. Another thing to remember is that the smaller the lens, the less effective it is in concentrating the rays of the sun. The biggest disadvantage to a magnifying lens is that it is totally dependent upon a good hot sunny day to achieve its best results. Ain't gonna work on a cloudy day or at night!

**MISCELLANEOUS METHODS** - Trying to start a fire using batteries, ice, shotgun shells, fire plows, fire saws, fire pistons, and hand drills, to name a few, is unreliable at best for the average person. Most of them are not worth learning due to the unavailability and/or difficulty of use. They all work, but it is better for you to concentrate on learning the above methods, which are much easier and more reliable.

While the above methods are by no means the only ways to produce fire in a survival situation, they are the easiest and most commonly available methods you can try. This brings us to what I consider the primo method of producing fire in a survival situation - **THE BOW DRILL**. This is one skill I highly recommend learning. Unlike all other methods described earlier, it is the only one which requires absolutely no tools to produce, though having at least a knife available is definitely an advantage. If a knife is not available, simply take a good piece of flint (chert), knock off a flake and presto, an instant cutting tool. Requiring relatively little training, the bow drill can be rapidly learned, and once you have acquired the skill, it will always be with you. In the next issue of the Monitor we will take a close look at the bow drill. We will discuss how to make it under primitive conditions along with guidelines on selecting the proper wood and cordage. Carefully made, a bow drill is a thing of beauty, capable of producing a fat



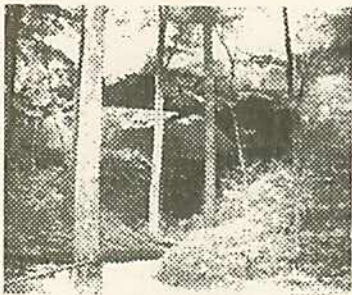
glowing coal in a matter of seconds.

Probably the most important thing to keep in mind is that no fire making method is going to help if you aren't prepared in advance. Finding yourself lost in a cold drizzle is no time to take out your instructions and try to make a fire.

The old saying, **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** is critically important here. At home, where you don't have to worry about fingers being numb from the cold, practice making fire with all of the methods mentioned above. With a little effort you can learn to make fire in a critical survival situation in less than one minute. You never know when you may have to do it for real.

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# LOJAH

## PART 5

By Lamar Marshall with illustrations by Janice Barret-Moore

*"The drawings in this episode of Lojah are dedicated to the memory of my friend Tommy Goff who died suddenly Feb. 18th, 1995. Tommy was a true mountain man and lover of the wild places on this earth."*

Janice Barrett-Moore

Without official decree to Wildcat, and in the most subtle ways, Lojah began the training of the youth. Today, he would send Wildcat on a mission; a mission that would test him and teach him simultaneously. The youth must begin to learn the lessons of the forest. Besides learning to exercise sound judgement, there were equally important lessons to think on such as The Doctrine of Levels and the Levels of Awareness.

Many scattered tribes and towns were spread across the southeast but the topography altered the ways and skills of one tribe to another. Most preferred life in the flatter plains and valleys. Those few who chose to live in the Warrior

Mountains were what might be called the Eastern Canyon People. These people were adapted physically to the terrain in which they lived. They constantly walked up and down the steep canyonsides. They ran along swift streams that originated on oak and chestnut ridgetops, flowed down deep hollows, disappeared into dense laurel thickets and plunged over rock bluffs into a landscape of moss green rocks and hemlocks to the canyon bottoms below. These gorges were

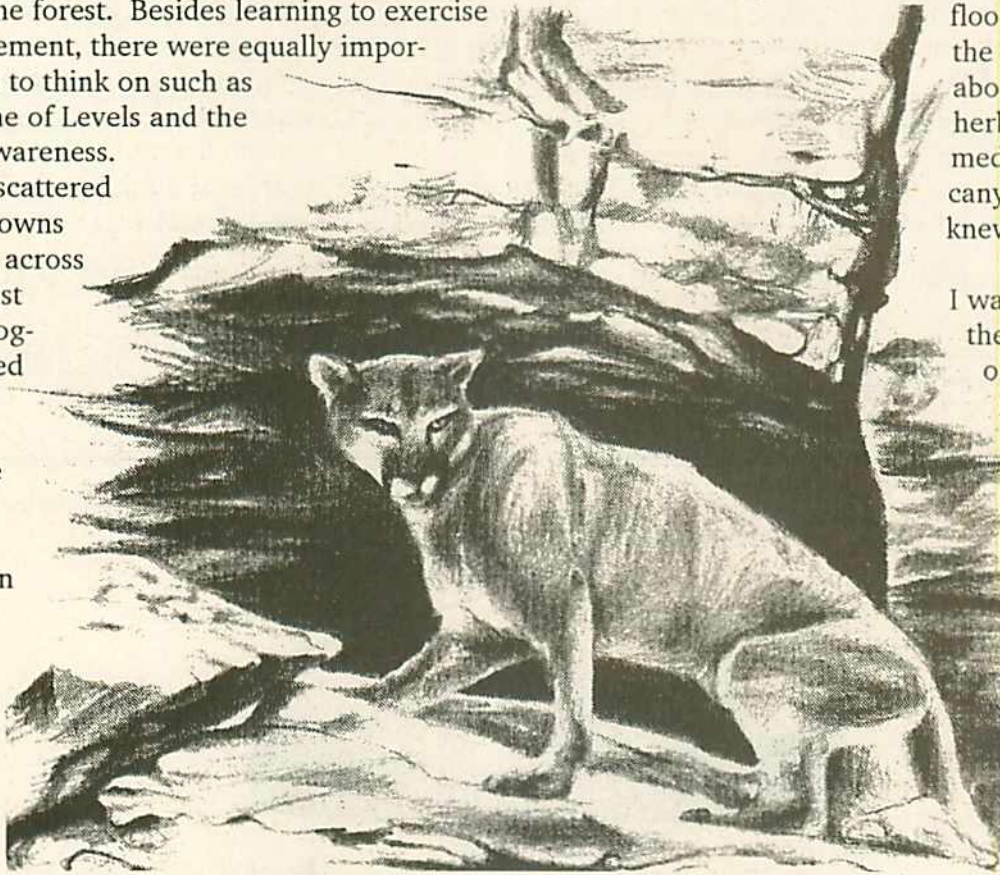
considered the ragged edge of the world by the Tennessee River bottomland dwellers.

The canyon streams of the Canyon Country teemed with mollusks, red horse, eels, bass, and dozens of other species of this native forest. The

floodplains north of the Tennessee Divide abounded with herbs for food and medicine. The canyon dwellers knew the land well.

"Wildcat, today I want you to go to the meeting point of High Town Path and Black Warrior's Path. Follow the drainage that falls off the Path to the southwest. Go to the intersection of the third canyon that comes from the rising sun

of the east. There you will find the remnants of an ancient trail so faint that, were it not for marker trees that still stand there, one would not know the trail. Follow the marker trees from the west bank of the stream and you will come to a hill. Look up the hill and there will be a rock standing alone below a bluff. Go to the rock and it will tell you where to go from there." This lesson would test the boy's ability to follow directions.





Lojah divided his teachings into what he considered to be the natural categories of nature.

### **Wildcat's Journey**

Wildcat took off with confidence and the adventurous anticipation of youth. He followed Lojah's instructions. He took the better part of a day to get to the High Town Path and easily followed it to the junction with Black Warrior's Path. He dropped off the mountain and followed the stream. He crisscrossed it as the cliffs and boulders forced him from one side to the other. He stretched out and rested on a square rock that overlooked the creek. He didn't know that a storm of great magnitude was in the making.

### **Lessons of the Forest**

A heavy rain began to fall. Wildcat found a rock overhang and slid underneath. It was not a good shelter, but it would do to wait out the rain. It poured for two hours. When the thunderstorm broke, the sun burst out from behind the clouds and made the green woods glisten as if they were coated with shining glass. Whisps of mist floated among the trees from off of cooled rocks. He made his way to the top of a canyonhead. What used to be a placid stream about fifteen feet wide and only a foot or so deep now was at least waist deep and very fast. Normally he could have walked across the rock bottom several feet above the point where the water plunged off of a 12 foot waterfall and into a deep pool below. The bold confidence of youth, the spirit of adventure and the "it-will-never-happen-to-me attitude" led him to underestimate the power of water. That which is a docile and weak friend one minute can become a hideous and powerful fiend of death the next.

He looked at the stream and made his decision. A jet black raven sat on a limb near the crossing place of the stream. It was both large and old. For more than twenty years, it had lived in the bluffs of the Warrior Mountains. It was more than two feet long. It watched the boy intently.

Wildcat had not taken three steps when he was swept off his feet and snatched over the lip of the canyon. He plunged into the cold pool. He surfaced about 8 feet downstream from the waterfall. He attempted to swim away from the waterfall that roared like a demon behind him. Over his shoulder he could see the wall of falling water. Something was wrong. He swam forward with all his might but he

was being pulled backwards by the reversed current of a powerful hydraulic. It held him like a giant talon and he went down in pounding waters and bubbles. The revolutions of a river hydraulic can trap an object for many hours. The waterfall pushed the boy down to the bottom, took him up several feet away, then pulled him back and down to the bottom again. Each time, he got less and less air.

As Wildcat was sucked down in the bubbling foam along an underwater rock wall his thoughts were clear. "You fool, you have killed yourself." The water took him down to the bottom and up again and sucked him back into the waterfall again. He only got a small gasp of air this time. He was trapped in the endless cycle of the hydraulic and was becoming faint. He fought the current. He tried to overcome the power of the water, but the power of the water overcame him. He began to pass out. His body relaxed and the current carried him along the bottom and out of grip of the hydraulic. Then the stream spit him out. When his head hit the air he half awoke. He was carried through a wild rapid. The stream made a bend. In the bend an eddy swirled below a rock shelf. Two water snakes lay on bobbing driftwood next to the shelf. Wildcat gave them no thought. He knew only that he had to get onto the shelf before he passed out. He reached through the snakes and pulled himself out onto the rock. He threw up, and then he passed out.

He could feel himself pass into an altered state

*"All your life skills are of no use to you if you are foolish enough to kill yourself through bad judgement."*

of consciousness almost like a deep sleep. He felt as if he was in another world. He had no fear, only a calmness in his soul and a vision of a shadowy figure sitting on a rock beside a tiny fire. He couldn't make

out a face, but he recognized the voice and the words. He had heard these words before. They were recorded in his mind.

"My son, in order to survive in this world you must learn the *Principles of the Way*. In order to know the *Principles of the Way*, you must come to understand the *Doctrine of the Levels of life*.

Every person begins life at a starting point on their personal path. Think of a young person as a ray of light that passes into the spray of water. That single golden ray is broken into many different rays of color though it is one. Each color represents an attribute of a single being. The *Seven Attributes* that make up the completeness or total ability of our being are *Knowledge, Skill Ability, Physical Ability, Wisdom, Ability of Reason, Mental Control* (courage, patience, endurance) and *Spiritual Perception*. The levels are like rungs on a ladder, or shelves on a bluff, or the high points of a mountain. Each person begins at the bottom and attains to higher levels as he progresses and excels in each attribute. They are the measure of perfection.

The higher the level you attain in each human attribute and physical skill, the more trained, skilled and wiser you will be. It is like being higher on a bluff or mountain. The higher you are, the farther you can see.

Pertaining to the level of *Knowledge*, you will find that the more knowledge you attain from teachers and observance of the world around you, the more advantage you will have. But beware, for even if you knew all there



was to know about all things, it would still not be enough, for you would have achieved only the highest level of one colored ray or realm of your being. That is incompleteness. A baby can have the knowledge of how it should walk, but only months of trying and falling will train the body to carry out the will of the mind. Much repetition and practice are necessary to master a skill.

Next, the level of *Skill Ability* must be achieved. After you have acquired the knowlege of how to hold and point a bow and arrow, you must attain levels of skill by repetition and practice. The more time you spend practicing, the more accurate will be your shots. New levels of ability will be achieved.

Then there is *Wisdom* and the *Ability of Reason*. All your life skills are of no use if you are foolish enough to kill yourself through bad judgement."

These were the words that were filtering through the subconscious mind of the unconscious boy.

### Lojah Tracks Wildcat

Miles away, an old man carefully picked up a sinew-backed bow, hide quiver, and a white oak packbasket. Inside was a full line of state-of-the-art flint tools and knives, dried fruit, and a rabbitskin blanket that perpetually shed brown hair. He would now grade the student of the wilderness. He might even have a little fun stalking him. He would pick up the boy's trail southwest of the High Town Path.

Lojah made good time. He knew a few short-cuts that Wildcat did not know. In four hours he found the boy's trail. There in the landscape of the forest floor, invisible to the untrained eye, was a trail that leaped out like fluorescent flagging to the dark-

skinned warrior. Disturbance of vegetation, dead and alive, was obviously made by man. It was then that a violent thunderstorm drove him to find shelter in the bluffs.

Not far away, words still filtered through the mind of an unconscious Wildcat. "Higher levels of *Physical Ability* will take you to new levels in your skills. You must develop strength to draw the bow. You must develop stamina to run the trails. Higher levels of physical ability equal longer periods of time and more miles. And you must develop coordination and balance, limberness and smoothness of movement. New levels of ability in all these areas work together to transform you from an uncoordinated weakling into a hunter and warrior."

The boy lay on the rock, breathing slowly with his eyes closed. He was in a gray zone somewhere between life and death, between the natural and the supernatural. He had learned a great lesson today. But he was not yet out of danger. Yellow eyes were watching him. Not far away, a cougar lay on the black, furrowed limb of an oak so large and old that no other trees challenged its dominance. The yellow eyes of the cat had followed every move of this man-child that wandered in the primeval wilderness of the Black Warrior Mountains. In the mind of this animal, there was no difference between the boy and any other animal. Wildcat meant one thing to a hungry cat: meat. And this cat was hungry.

Meanwhile, several miles away, the ghostly figure of a bronzed-skinned warrior moved through the shadows.

*Continued in issue 17*




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## Shambling Through The Outdoors With John Foshee

# My Backpacking Outfit

My early backpacking outfits were born in army surplus stores and some of my equipment still comes from them. In the beginning, of course, there was a reason for this - there was little choice. The age of the great return to the outdoors was many years in the future and the few places selling outdoor equipment catered to the hunter or fisherman, to a higher income than I happened to have or to the exalted plane of the expedition trade. The lowly and lonely such as I adopted gear from home or hardware, went to the Boy Scout store, or rummaged in the dusty, strange-odored semi-darkness of the surplus store for leftovers from battles in far off climes.

So it was that many a trip found me trudging off with multiple examples of Scout gear and relics of two, later three, wars clanking and banging and weighing me down. Actually, it wasn't bad stuff. Heavy, yes, but it lasted forever. It was also very cheap at the time and it did the job which was really all you could ask of it. Too, in those unsophisticated days, there was nothing much with which to compare it. Canvas was not only de rigueur, it was all there was. Belts on packs were unknown, plastic was new and most of it odd smelling - a characteristic quickly shared with whatever was in or near it. Wool was the big insulation and boots were - well - just boots.

Tents (of canvas or duck) tended to leak if you touched them in a rain, and flies were insects, not part of a tent, but most of us never bothered with a tent anyway - just a shelter half; army surplus, of course. Hatchets were almost mandatory equipment as cooking was done on an open fire and food was straight out of the nearest grocery. It was a simple, uncomplicated economical style of outdoor life.

Years passed and, as I couldn't help it, I grew up and older. The outdoors became a bigger thing to newer generations and a very big business in the process. Gradually, my horizons expanded to the new breed of outdoor outfitters and my eyes beheld the wonders so temptingly displayed in their catalogs.

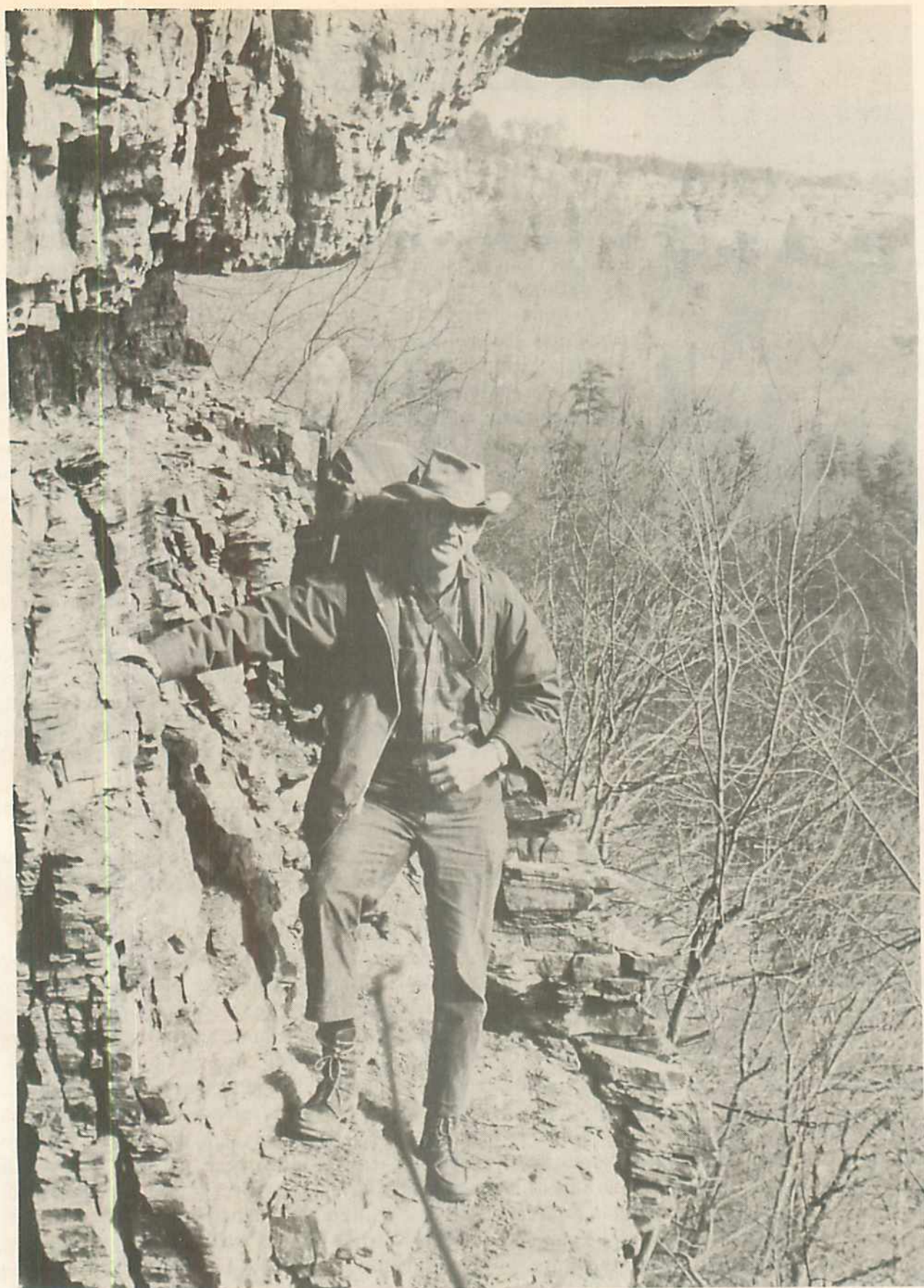
The result for me was a semi-reluctant lurch into the present day glitter of specialized and hi-tech outdoor equipment. It was only a partial lurch, however, a small step, only a toe-hold in fact on the fringe of such an esoteric plateau.

But, after years of blankets and army mountain bag liners (warm but heavy and noted for their nocturnal dispensing of feathers over your recumbent body), I broke down and purchased a real sleeping bag. Later, in another moment of weakness and spurred on by the offer of a generous discount, I became the owner of a genuine back-packing tent-fly and all! Somewhere along the way, I also went to a small stove instead of an open fire. This wasn't due to any thoughts of ecology or because the time-honored cooking fire was passee but simply because years of it had dampened my enthusiasm for sooty pans.

My actual first purchase in all this modernizing had been a discount store pack frame. I was very proud of this. The pack was nylon, the frame aluminum tubing - a very uptown piece of equipment. No belt, of course, rather narrow, thinly-padded shoulder straps and rather small in capacity but, in my naive way, I thought it wonderful after the rucksacks; army packs and semi-frame packs I'd been using. Being a real "cheapie," however, my lovely little pack soon disintegrated. Subsequently, I replaced it with an on-sale frame with wide, thickly padded shoulder straps, large capacity, sturdy frame and a padded belt. I use it yet.

Now, my camping outfit, even with the additions mentioned, is undistinguished. Very little of it is "name" brand - at least a name anybody in the modern outdoors recognizes. I'm afraid, too, that I just don't fit the image typified in the outdoor catalogs and articles. I'm embarrassed to carry a Sierra cup and find an old plastic one to be much less lip-scalding and much more heat-retaining. I still wear Sears and Roebuck work boots to walk in, my rain gear is the regular old non-breathing, sweaty, coated nylon and I still get most of my food from the grocery store.

In the world of the modern hiker, I'm just a slob and though I can mumble semi-intelligently about the latest methods and equipment, I do so self-consciously, always aware of my tried and true but prosaic and old-fashioned gear lurking in the background and silently belying my authoritative monologues!



*John Foshee shambling through the outdoors.*

# LITTERBUGS

by John H. Foshee



Have you ever been out hiking, canoeing or just Sunday afternoon sightseeing in some beautiful and scenic area and suddenly had your eyes and senses shocked by a great mound of smelly, bug-laden garbage or an area covered with paper, old cans, bottles, tires and all the other ingredients of the typical trash heap? Sort of disgusting, isn't it?

"Litter," of course, is the generic term for these messes, and those responsible are known as "Litterbugs". I personally feel a more fitting epithet is "slobs". Litterbugs are not actually born but are, I believe, spawned or perhaps generated as the product of some terrible spontaneous metamorphosis that takes place deep in the bowels of previously disposed litter and various unmentionable substances. Whatever their origin, I think they feed on filth and are inbred at concept with an unquenchable determination to drag all they can back down to their own primeval level.

Young litterbugs learn from emulating older, more experienced, litterbugs. During their formative years, they use small tools to wreak their destruction -- candy bar wrappers, styrofoam and plastic cups, ashtray dumpings and the like. As they grow older and wiser, they get increasingly greater quantities of more unsightly junk to dispose of -- newspapers, plastic bags of trash, boxes of rotting garbage, and such. Now and then an especially promising young slob is allowed a few old wheels or tires. In the adult stages, they graduate to ripped mattresses and sprung springs, discarded furniture of any type, rusted out car hulks and even greater piles of ever larger derelict items they have accumulated. Indeed, the only requisite for a litterbug's unutterable delight is a scenic area and the tools of his trade -- anything old, worn-out, rusty, bent, torn and dirty to put on it. The greater the insult to the environment and the eyes and nostrils of the innocent, the greater his status!

It's very hard to catch any age litterer in action. These desperadoes are sly and their legions tend to remain nameless and faceless. They do have definite characteristics, of course; unfeeling, no concept of value or discipline, no self-respect, no pride, no consideration for the rights or property of others and an unswaying life-long dedication to callous, even deliberate disregard for all but their own selfish egos and a sworn vow to destroy the beauty that the world has provided for all.

These distinctions are not readily apparent and when combined with the litterer's innate secrecy, make their detection very difficult. It's just possible some of these misfits do vaguely realize they're doing something wrong or finally recognize their actions are not condoned in the eyes of much of the remaining populace. It's also possible that should this happen, they probably wouldn't recognize the stirrings within as any guilt or pangs of conscience, as such are completely foreign to them. Most probably, they don't care that not only does their unwanted contribution to the roadside and forests and streambed result in destruction of the aesthetic values of the area, cost various agencies tremendous quantities of money and time to undo their damage, but that these unsightly piles also often pollute and do irreparable damage to the environment.

As these litterers now seem relatively free to roam the earth, the task of taking them much more seriously is sure to have an effect. "More seriously" means the enactment of stronger anti-litter laws and their very strict enforcement. They must learn that the continuance of their evil actions will not be tolerated.

For this purpose, I propose a simple solution. Each time a litterer is caught, he is taken out and publicly draped in all of the accumulated trash he attempted to deposit, then literally with the weight of his sins tied to him, be hung in some public place there to remain until nature's clean up crews have picked his bones clean and his various components returned to the environment. Thus shall we have justice, satisfaction, and poetic retribution all in one!

# The Alabama Wilderness Alliance

To help protect Alabama's wildlands, a group of dedicated wilderness advocates created the Alabama Wilderness Alliance. The AWA is a vehicle for focusing the various, diverse efforts of other groups and people for preserving wilderness in our state. Time is running out. Rapid clearcutting of native forests on our National Forests and on private lands that should be preserved is destroying our natural and national heritage.



*From left - Ray Vaughan, Dave Foreman of Wildlands Project and Ned Mudd*

The AWA is initially working on three goals to protect Alabama's wildlands. By January 1, 2000, the AWA proposes the accomplishment of the following:

\* Designation by Congress of a minimum of 258,700 additional acres of wilderness areas in the National Forests of Alabama and 61,000 acres of wilderness areas on other federal lands. The current 34,000 acres in two areas (Sipsey and Cheaha) are grossly inadequate to protect the ecosystems and biodiversity of Alabama's federal public lands. A total of 353,700, approximately one percent of the state, will be a significant first step for preserving natural diversity in Alabama.

\* Passage by the Alabama Legislature of an Alabama Wilderness Act. We have no wilderness protection of state lands. Such an act would provide for the permanent and complete preservation of over 40,000 acres of vital state-owned wildlands. The AWA has already drafted such a bill, and it has been endorsed by the Alabama Chapter of the Sierra Club and Citizen Action of Alabama.

\* Acquisition and preservation of at least 200,000 acres in the Mobile/Tensaw Rivers Delta, 80,000 acres in the Sipsey River Swamp, and other hardwood bottomlands. Whether through the Forever Wild program or through a special bond issue, the State and/or the federal government should buy these hardwood swamps and preserve them as wilderness. The continuing loss of these unique and irreplaceable ecosystems cannot be tolerated.

Along with accomplishment of the above goals, the AWA has long-range plans to work for protection of all 660,000+ acres of federal land in Alabama's National Forests and for acquisition of additional lands. The incredible biodiversity of Alabama's unique environments can be preserved only through protection of habitat in its wild condition. Along with preservation of state and federal lands, the public must acquire and conserve additional blocks of habitat and corridors to connect them.

The AWA is a participant in The Wildlands Project, a continent-wide wilderness protection and recovery effort, and the AWA's plans have been endorsed by The Wildlands Project and published nation-wide in the magazine *Wild Earth*. Further, the AWA's plans have been peer-reviewed by two of the world's premier conservation biologists, Dr. Michael Soule, co-founder of the Society for Conservation Biology and a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Dr. Reed Noss, a Pew Charitable Trusts Scholar in Conservation and Environment. The AWA welcomes the support and efforts of all persons and organizations committed to the goals of protecting Alabama's environment and of enhancing our state for future generations.



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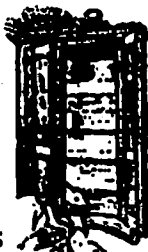
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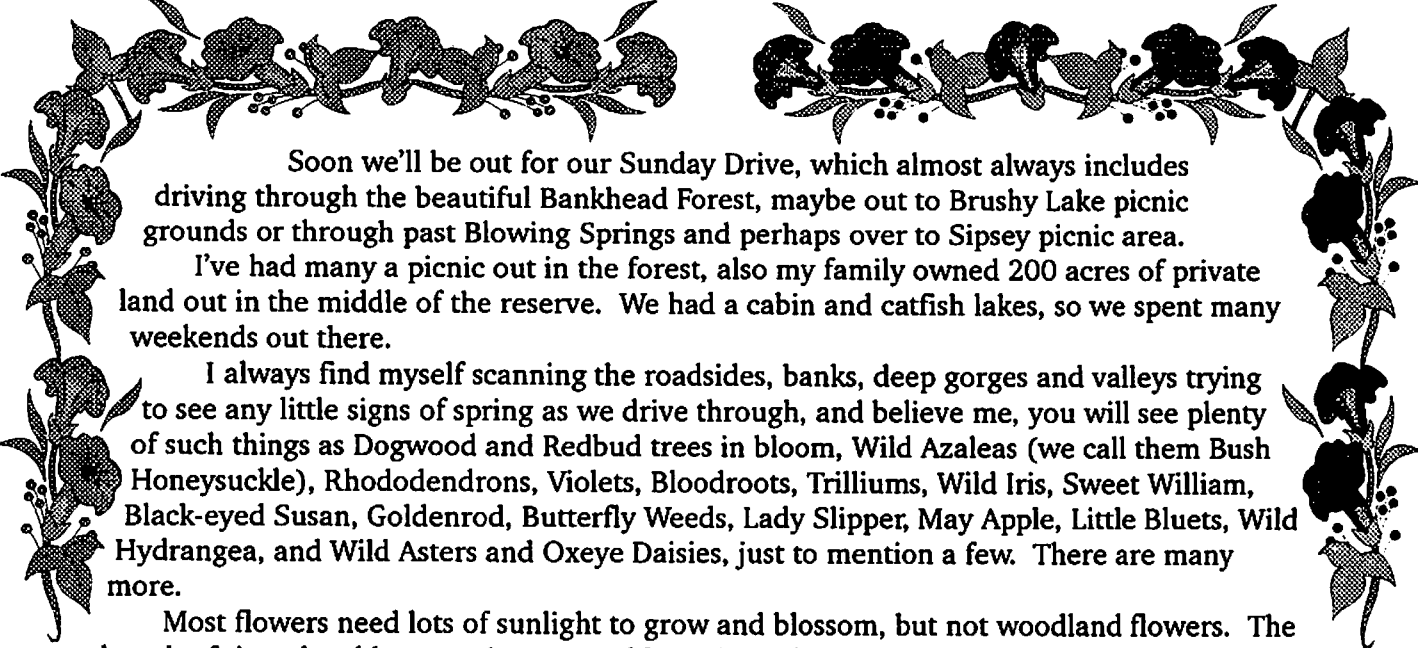




STOP THE MADN

SS!

# Native Plants of the Bankhead Forest Woodland



Soon we'll be out for our Sunday Drive, which almost always includes driving through the beautiful Bankhead Forest, maybe out to Brushy Lake picnic grounds or through past Blowing Springs and perhaps over to Sipsev picnic area.

I've had many a picnic out in the forest, also my family owned 200 acres of private land out in the middle of the reserve. We had a cabin and catfish lakes, so we spent many weekends out there.

I always find myself scanning the roadsides, banks, deep gorges and valleys trying to see any little signs of spring as we drive through, and believe me, you will see plenty of such things as Dogwood and Redbud trees in bloom, Wild Azaleas (we call them Bush Honeysuckle), Rhododendrons, Violets, Bloodroots, Trilliums, Wild Iris, Sweet William, Black-eyed Susan, Goldenrod, Butterfly Weeds, Lady Slipper, May Apple, Little Bluets, Wild Hydrangea, and Wild Asters and Oxeye Daisies, just to mention a few. There are many more.

Most flowers need lots of sunlight to grow and blossom, but not woodland flowers. The length of time they bloom varies. Many bloom in early Spring, before the sun gets too strong. Others that bloom later seem to thrive on the small amount of filtered sunlight that shines through the trees.

Wild flowers and plants have been bred by gardeners over periods of time to produce huskier or hardier stems, larger or more fragrant flowers, different colored flowers or more attractive leaves than in their wild state.

Often these man made changes from wild flowers to garden flowers change back to their wild form after several generations unless a gardener continues to care for the best plants and destroy the others. Most wild flowers are classified as perennials because they come back or reseed back year after year. The woodland plants thrive on the deep, rich humus formed by decaying leaves and wood. This is Mother Nature's way of composting. We can have the same deep, rich humus from having out compost bins at home.

I am always fascinated with Mistletoe. It attaches itself to a tree and completely lives off that tree for all its food. This type thing is called a parasite. We enjoy it in our decorating at Christmas time. Standing under the Mistletoe, look out, you may get a kiss.

The best way to learn about or enjoy wild flowers or woodland flowers is to go out into the woods and fields and observe and study them. But remember, in our national and state parks it is illegal to pick them. Please don't prevent others the chance to see and enjoy them. Besides, they probably won't live if you dig them up, they should remain in their own habitat for all to enjoy.

by Dorothy S. Martin of Dorothy's Plants, Hartselle, Alabama

# Two of the Lovliest Natives of Bankhead forest



Above:  
*Bankhead's Spiderwort*  
To the right:  
*A Yellow Ladyslipper*



# VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The following is from a speech made by Curtis Daum, who moved from Washington State about nine years ago. Curtis has seen the timber companies turn their attention from the west to the South. He says that "the end result will be the loss of the southern hardwood forests on every acre of land that they can lease or purchase."

## AN ALTERNATIVE TO CLEARCUTTING

The three major timber companies, Weyerhaeuser, Champion, and Georgia Pacific would like us to believe that clearcutting followed by the replanting of a single species of tree, Loblolly Pine, is a safe and profitable form of forest management. They operate on the principle that if you tell a lie often enough and back it up with a megabucks advertising campaign, sooner or later everyone will come to believe it. Truth is, clearcutting is not safe, in fact it's one of the worst forms of forest management in use today and its profitable only for the timber companies and only until the health of the soil is depleted from repeated plantings of a single "crop" of pine. Simply put, clearcutting is a destructive and highly dangerous practice harmful to both the forest and our economy. Its continued use will eventually result in the loss of our forests, private and public, damage to the quality of our air, rivers, streams and lakes, as well as job loss in the industries which practice and defend clearcutting.

The question should be asked: Should we cut down all our southern hardwood forests and replace them with a single species of tree planted in neat rows like corn, or should we examine these procedure as to its future consequences and look at an alternative form of forest management? In order to answer this question we should first come to a realization of just what our southern hardwood forests are and what their loss means to us now and in the future. A forest, no matter if it is a tropical rainforest in Brazil or a hardwood forest in Alabama, is a complex ecosystem of interdependent plants and animals which took generations to develop but can be destroyed in mere days. Even a partial list of just the tree species which are lost to clearcutting and pine replanting is impressive by itself: WILLOWS, SWEET GALE, WALNUT, BIRCH, BEECH, ELM, MULBERRY, MAGNOLIA, SASSAFRAS, BAYS, SWEET GUMS, SYCAMORE, MAPLES, BASSWOODS, DOGWOOD, CEDARS, HOLLY, HICKORY, AND OAK TREES.

All of the above are being sacrificed by the timber companies' greed for Loblolly Pine trees and that doesn't even start to get into the staggering damage that is done to the plant life, rare and otherwise, that is also destroyed by clearcutting, or what happens to the animals which depend on the forest to survive. Our southern hardwood forests clean our air, provide us with clean water, provide us with areas for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking, plus they provide us with a variety of wood types for furniture and other products. They are a southern heritage which cannot be replaced, offering places of quiet solitude for those seeking escape from the overpopulated urban areas filled with traffic congestion, asphalt, buildings and crime. They have value to all of us simply because of the fact that they exist. The timber companies practice of clearcutting and pine replanting on the other hand has only two benefits: It gives us a one time supply of various wood types when the forest is cut and it makes the timber companies rich.

Let's examine the immediate and long term consequences of clearcutting and pine replanting on our land, our future, and the timber companies themselves. When all the trees and ground cover plants are stripped from the land it exposes the soil to the full effects of the sun, wind, and rain. This results in a deadly combination of the extreme heating of the soil, massive water evaporation, and the loss of topsoil as it is carried into the nearest small stream, lake or river. Now, as any farmer understands, soil is more than just dirt. It is home to many types of bacteria, insects, worms, etc., all of which contribute to its overall health.

Expose this forest soil to the direct rays of the sun, wind, and rain and it degrades. Think that the replanting with pine trees helps? Well, think again. Chris Maser, a forest ecologist who was on the staff of the Bureau of Land Management, believes that only about three "crops" of pine can be grown on an area of land before it is nutritionally depleted irreparably.

Now that's a sobering thought. Think of all the hardwood forests that have already been destroyed for the creation of pine plantations. Now think of this land growing nothing besides weeds and a few stunted trees. Now think of what effect that would have on Alabama's future economy. Think of living here surrounded by blight. Not a very pleasant idea is it. Yet it could easily happen! Our lakes and waterways would be filled with sediment, raising their bottoms, reducing the oxygen levels and depleting the fish population. This is in fact happening now because of clearcutting. Just ask some of the oldtimers to describe to you how the quality of local streams has declined in the last thirty years or so. They've noticed. Imagine this degeneration continuing unchecked into the future. Clearcutting and pine plantations could well destroy our water ways and lakes as well as the land.

What about recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, and camping? The removal of vast areas of nut-bearing trees and forage plants will result in a decline of all the animals which depend on our hardwood forests for food and shelter. No animal habitat equals no animals. It also means limited recreational activities, not only for those of us who live here, but also for those who now travel here to hunt and fish. No tourist equals no tourist dollars, further harming our economy. No tourist will travel to a state which offers only endless vistas of clearcuts and Loblolly Pine tree plantations!

What about the timber companies? Will they be in position to repay us for the damage they've caused? Hardly! They will be in trouble themselves because monoculture tree plantations just don't work out in the long haul. They result in single species, same aged trees that are prone to disease and insect infestation such as the Pine Bark Beetle, and eventually deplete the soil of nutrients, making it worthless as a growing medium. Eventually these factors will put the timber companies in big trouble in the south and they will do just what they have done before, move the bulk of their operations to other areas, thus putting a whole segment of our population on the unemployment line.

There is a workable alternative. The timber companies MUST be forced to abandon clearcutting and pine plantations in favor of the one land management practice which allows both timber harvesting and a continuation of our hardwood forests. Select cutting! With select cutting only a small number of trees are removed from an area of forest at any given time, leaving the strongest trees as a gene pool. These trees will reproduce themselves creating the healthy forests of the future. This type of forest management will not only leave us with a forest to manage, it will also provide animal habitat, clean water and air, and recreational activities. Just as important, they will also provide us with the diverse types of wood, that we are now rapidly losing, thus providing material for manufacturing plants and allowing for a constant number of jobs in the timber industry. This wise management of our hardwood forests will result in a far better future for our children, our industry, our state, and the entire south. It is always easy to take the short term outlook, to take the entire pie, leaving nothing for others who will come after us, but can we afford to do this with so much at stake? The answer is a resounding no. Let's make sure that the timber companies come to understand this. Our future depends on it.

## FROM A FOREST ARTIST

### The Environmentalist

by Elizabeth Seifried

The sticky green atmosphere and sweet scents of light pink and blue phlox floated through the crystal air. One long sphere of sunlight stabbed the cool, wet air. Climbing rocks and their bristly, green moss gave off cool, earthy waves, and their underground streams formed a vibrato only felt when particularly still. The upper streams flowed nonchalantly...steadily, yet with a life never captured by any other source. Its bouncing ivulets and springing drops continued their path across grey rocks, tan sand, and green and brown-topped  
ees.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Two trees leaning together formed an altar, a unique dome over the branching stream. The sunlight only reached the very tops of these trees, so green and golden leaves burst from highest stems in bunches resembling loose-leaf lettuce. Blue sky barely peeked down through the many trees and embracing limbs. It preferred its own horizons. Down below, the steep cliff tumbled with lodged boulders smiling and happy trees embracing. The logs even had a role. They supplied nutrients for the many orange, yellow, and red fungi. The bark -- bright beetles shelter. Gradually, as time passed, the sun passed through the sky leaving a gentle light where once it stood, and blanketing the blue sky for the night with traces of gold, magenta-maroon, and violet. The trees absorbed only the gold and illuminated the sky as burning matchtops before a smoldering fire. Night was falling.

One small object was out of place. It was not for me. It was the aluminum cobalt blue I had dropped, while gathering canvass and brushes to leave. I covered it fully by leaves which would soon deteriorate. In the one trip to the woods, I left a lasting impression that would stay as long as rocks and stream, trees or air, or perhaps longer.

# ORV'S ?????

January 16, 1995

Dear Lamar,

The Bankhead Monitor is now widely recognized as the best periodical of its kind and the voice of conscience for Alabama's public forests. For that reason, I was greatly concerned to see the apparent endorsement of off-road vehicle riding in the Bankhead National Forest in recent issues, accompanied by literally pages of paid ads for motorcycle dealers and the like.

I realize that your primary concern is stopping the destructive logging of the Bankhead by the US Forest Service. You may believe you need all the help you can get from wherever you can get it, but in this case I believe you are making a big mistake.

What will be the effect of the promotion of off-road vehicle use of the Bankhead on the wild and sacred places you have dedicated your life to protect? Imagine the whine of a dirt bike marring the reverential silence in any of the many places of great natural beauty and power you showed us when we visited last summer. Unfortunately, I don't have to imagine it. I have only to travel to the Sheltopee Trace in the Daniel Boone National Forest, or to Turkey Bay at the Land Between the Lakes to see and hear the appalling violation of those once sacred places. There are similar examples on public lands everywhere these machines have been allowed to play.

It is probably an unruly minority that does most of the damage. The point is that these are machines that are designed to "go anywhere," greatly amplifying the potential for mischief that the unruly minority in any group of recreational users is apt to cause. Once the first vehicle has broken a trail, many others are likely to follow, even if the trail crosses adjoining private land. Bankhead neighbors and inholders will suffer from greatly increased noise and trespass if these vehicles are permitted. You know that the Forest Service has neither the budget nor the ability to see that only designated trails are used. More trails mean more sales which inevitably means more pressure to open more and more of the forest to the one use that drives out virtually all others.

You do not need the orv groups or their paid ads to stop the destructive logging on the Bankhead. The danger is that what you succeed in protecting from reckless outlaw logging you will lose to reckless outlaw recreation.

for the forest,  
Andy Mahler  
Executive Coordinator  
Heartwood

# A Passion for Less

Did you know that the average American spends one year of his or her life watching TV commercials, that every year in this country 1.3 million acres are black-topped, and that each day, nine square miles of rural land are turned over to development? Americans overconsume, yet remain unhappy, according to statistics in *All Consuming Passion: Waking Up from the American Dream*. This 23-page booklet about America's habits of consumption, environmental track record, population trends and values is the latest publication of the New Road Map Foundation, a Seattle-based nonprofit group dedicated to helping people obtain "financial sanity." The group is best known for *Your Money or Your Life*, a best-selling book advocating voluntary simplicity. The foundation's board members, all of whom try to follow the book's prescription for a self-sufficient life, include Bernie Siegel, author of *Love, Medicine & Miracles*, and Paul Wachtel, author of *The Poverty of Affluence*. All proceeds from *All Consuming Passion*, as well as from *Your Money or Your Life*, are donated to groups across the country working for sustainability. Booklets are \$1 from the New Road Map Foundation, P.O. Box 15981, Seattle, WA 98115 (206\527-0437).

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# Save the Trees, Please

I was told that Clinton was making orders for people to cut down the trees in one of our country's national wildlife preservation parks. The president said that we needed the trees for paper, home-building, etc.

Well, that may be true, but trees are a part of Mother Earth's natural beauty--once they are gone, they are gone, and there is nothing anyone can do about it. To save the trees we must do something now, not later.

The animals need the trees, too. They use them for food and for homes. By cutting the trees down we would be home-wrecking, not home-building.

Those trees give us oxygen. By cutting them down, we would be depleting ourselves of our main physical life force.

Once we learn how easy it is to cut down the trees, we'll cut more and more. It will become a habit, and the "right" will/can easily go to someone's head. We need to realize what is necessary, and what is desperately needed--oxygen, animals and their food and homes, physical beauty in our country and earth.

I want the next generation to see what I see when I wake up in the morning and look out the window. I don't want them to have to read about what I know now; I want them to see for themselves--they deserve that, don't they?

Those animals--what have they done to deserve this? Nothing, they have just lived their lives the only way they know how. They can't pack their bags and move to another forest; they are in as much danger as the trees are.

If you look, there is a chain: first the trees, then the animals, and then the people. I value the earth that I live on because I know (like the animals) I have no place to go when it is destroyed, and I value all the beauty Earth bears.

Summarized, the reasons to save the trees are this: Mother Earth cannot stand up for herself: that's where we come in, her beauty is too much to sacrifice, the animals need the earth and her goodness, too. Let us not be selfish and use it just for our benefit, and last but certainly not least, do it for the generations to come.

Look out the window. The reasons are right in front of your face. Don't just sit there, do something now, and *Save the Trees, Please*; Mother Earth will thank you someday.

Stefanie Hauth

Age 16

Athens High School, 11th Grade

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# NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

## Timber Targets Eliminated From Budget

For the first time in years, Congressional appropriators declined to set timber targets or target ranges for any national forests. Instead, following a lengthy discussion of the timber sale program, the conferees stated:

The managers expect the Forest Service to allocate carefully all resources available for timber sales to accomplish the most feasible sales level in fiscal year 1995, consistent with ecosystem management objectives. In particular, the managers are concerned that allocations of scarce resources not be directed to areas with low probability of success at the expense of areas with significantly higher probability of success.

As part of the Forest System discussion, the conferees substantially revised the Senate's version of the bill which included language inserted by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) requiring the agency to address "economic dislocation issues" in southeast Alaska, as well as "the need for a stable timber supply" in the region. The end result in this report is a substantial vitiation of Sen. Steven's past success in maintaining unsustainably high cuts on the Tongass National Forest.

Ecosystem planning, inventory and monitoring took a \$2 million hit from the agency's National Forest System request, but the final funding level of \$150 million was \$2.9 million over 1994 levels, and includes approxi-

mately \$31 million for the Forest Plan, of which \$16 million is allocated for watershed assessments. The agency's request for wildlife and fish management funds was cut by \$2.85 million, but the final appropriation of \$98.8 million represents a \$9.7 million increase over 1994 spending levels.

## National Parks on the Chopping Block

Rep. James Hansen (R-UT) Chairman on the House Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Forests and Parks said creating a "Park Closure Commission" patterned after the military's base closure commission would be one way to target parks for elimination. Citing the need to cut federal budgets, Hansen is proposing to cut areas out of the park system which could be turned over to state or local governments or sold to private interests.

## Forest Service Said Miscounting trees

Excerpt from Scott Sonner's article in the *Decatur Daily*, Saturday Nov. 26, 1994

Washington - The Forest Service as recently as three years ago still was badly overestimating the number of trees it could cut down without severely damaging some of the Northwest's most productive national forests, a new congress-

sional report says.

The agency also made unrealistic predictions about logging levels in the Southeast partly because it didn't fully anticipate the increased cost of shifting from clear-cutting to ecologically preferred single-tree harvests, the General Accounting Office said...

Congress has received several reports in recent years indicating the Forest Service historically miscounted trees. The practice produces what are known as "phantom forests," resulting in an exaggerated estimate of how many trees can be removed without causing irreversible damage to the resource.

## Conservation Group Slams Forest Service Economics

According to a study recently released by The Wilderness Society, the Forest Service lost nearly \$1 billion last year, primarily because of government logging subsidies paid to timber companies and to states and counties that contain national forests. In its "Shareholder's Report on National Forests," TWS reported that the agency lost \$614 million on its timber operations and \$474 million on its recreation programs for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 1993. The report states that only 12 percent -- about \$305 million -- of the agency's 1993 budget was spent on protecting natural resources. More than \$1.4 billion, 57 percent, was earmarked for resource extraction.

Copies of the report are available from The Wilderness Society by calling 202/833-2300 or writing TWS, 900 17th St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006.

## Forest Service Gives Itself Permission to Violate Law

The Forest Service has secretly made changes in the way administrative appeals of its decisions are reviewed, and in so doing, has given itself permission to violate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), says the Spokane-based Inland Empire Public Lands Council (EPLC). In a recent news release, the group said it had obtained internal Forest Service documents confirming the change in policy, including a letter from Chief Jack Ward Thomas and a leaked memo from Region One Forester David Jolly. The directives allow reviewing officers to affirm timber sale decisions even though environmental review for the project is acknowledged to be inadequate.

"In essence, the agency is free to implement the decision immediately, even though the environmental analysis has not been completed," said Debbie Sivas, an attorney for the group. "This new approach...reflects an obvious disdain for the public participation objectives of the law and is plainly illegal." The group says the new policy is inconsistent with chief Thomas's message to his employees to "Obey the law, and tell the truth." If you are interested in more information or copies of these documents, please contact IEPLC at 509/327-1699.

*Forest Guardians*

## Poll: Forests should be used for recreation, not business

*The Miami Herald*, Thursday, January 26, 1995

Washington - (AP) - A poll commissioned by the Forest Service has found that most Americans want national forests used for recreation and wildlife protection rather than production of lumber or other commercial products.

Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas says the results of the poll conducted last year by a consulting firm are being considered as the Agriculture Department agency prepares to reorganize and streamline some services. Among the findings:

\* 61 percent of the respondents agreed that threatened and endangered species in U.S. public forests and grasslands should be protected even if it has a negative economic impact.

\* 65 percent agreed that the federal government should increase the regulation of commercial use of public forests. Some 38 percent said they "strongly agreed." Only 22 percent disagreed and 13 percent had no opinion.

\* 79 percent agreed that the long-term health of public forests should not be compromised by the short-term need for natural resources.

\* 36 percent agreed that natural resources in public forests should be made available to produce consumer goods, but 47 percent disagreed. More than one-fourth, 26 percent, "strongly disagreed" that public resources should be used for such purposes.

Thomas said it is important to gather research on public views on national forests. "If we are going to be consumer-sensitive, we need to understand their views," he said.

Environmentalists embraced the survey results.

"The real meaning of the national opinion poll is that the public wants long-term environmental health and protection - not short term commodity needs - to be the primary purposes of national forest management," said Jeff DeBonis, head of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

But Chris West, vice president of the timber industry's Northwest Forestry Association in Portland, Ore., questioned the respondents' understanding of the national forest system.

"It's obvious many people don't understand the difference between national forests and national parks," West said.

*Scott Sonner, AP*

## Bankhead Monitor Awarded Grants

The Bankhead Monitor and Bankhead Watershed Project is the fastest growing grass-roots forest watch group in the Alabama region. The organization has been awarded several grants recently to implement their projects. The latest is from Patagonia for general support of the Bankhead Water-

shed Project.

"From all of us here at Patagonia, thank you for your efforts to protect your local forest from bad management practices. We're indebted to you and others like you, all across the country, who are struggling to do what is "right" for our public lands."

## TIMBER INDUSTRY CONTROLLED CONGRESS PASSES FOREST KILLING LEGISLATION IN HOUSE AND SENATE

By April 7, both houses of the new, pro-timber Congress had passed the Rescissions Act, to save taxpayers \$16 billion. Hidden in this Rescissions Act is the Timber Salvage "Rider" sponsored by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA) and Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC). The Timber Salvage Rider will:

1. Suspend all federal environmental law; the Forest Service will have total control of timber program with no accountability to citizens or the federal courts
2. Cost taxpayers 1/2 to over 2 billion dollars
3. shut citizens out of the appeals process (stripping our right to impact public land management decisions)
4. Immediately double logging National Forests nationwide, and expand the US timber program uncontrollably
5. Create economic incentives for arsonists to burn National Forests

To justify the looting of our last wild and natural forests, the timber industry and their Congressional cronies have fabricated a "Forest Health Crisis" public relations hoax. The Forest Service's own data shows that there is no crisis with respect to fire, bugs, or diseases on our National Forests. The only real crisis is tax-subsidized deforestation of our public forests. The Timber Salvage Rider will open up a "Green Gold Rush" on our public lands that will destroy all values on our National Forests, waste billions of tax dollars, and enrich multinational timber corporations.

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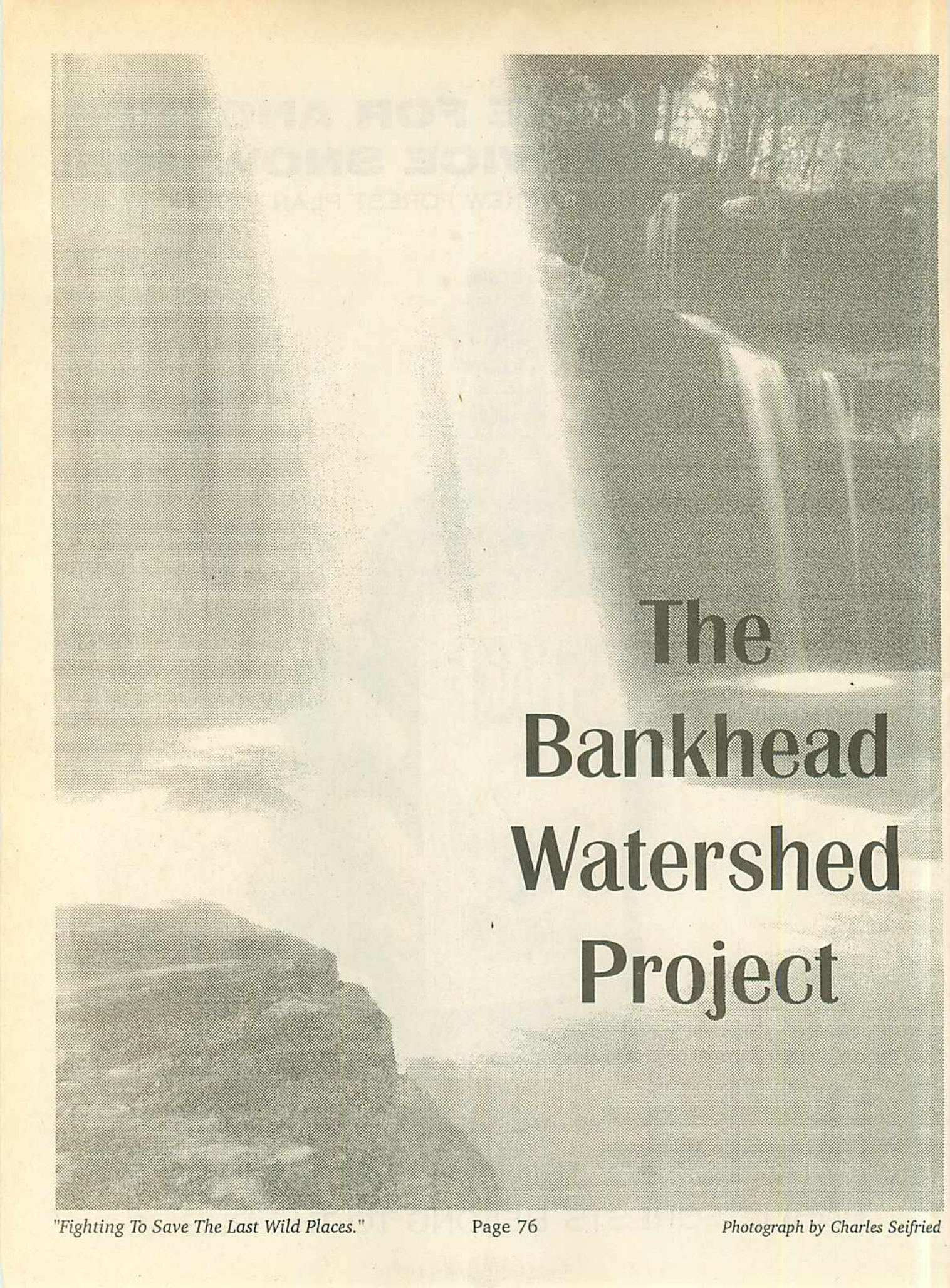
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# The Bankhead Watershed Project

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*Collier Canyon, Photograph by Ronnie White*

# THE BANKHEAD WATERSHED PROJECT

The native biodiversity of the southeastern forest is a unique and important treasure. Unfortunately, our native Alabama forest is losing its original character through industrial forestry and conversion to tree farms. Along with the old trees and associated wildlife is the destruction of our cultural treasures. The protection and restoration of the biological diversity of this forest will yield many benefits, including visual beauty, clean air and water, recreation, hunting, fishing, nature study and sustainable forest products.

Our goal is to preserve unbroken links in the web of life both physically, spiritually and culturally. Each of these values are essential to human happiness and fulfillment. This is the legacy and heritage that we must leave our children. Resistance from the camp of corporate ambition and political prostitution complicate this fight. The American public is being blinded by the propaganda of corporate megamonopolies who in reality don't represent free enterprise. Some of our most influential policy makers are sold out to this corporate greed. You might say that we have the best politicians that money can buy.

Our mission begins with the reform of public land management in the national forests of Alabama. We wish to insure that Alabama's last wild places will be preserved and restored. Preservation of our key public forests and the implementation of statewide, ecologically sound forestry practices would serve as a model and precedent for private land use reform. Protected conservation areas would serve dual roles. They would act as reservoirs of cultural history and biological diversity.

The Bankhead Watershed Project is a scientific undertaking by the Bankhead Monitor to see that the US Forest Service implements the best credible science in the new Forest Plan Revision for Alabama. The USFS has asked the Monitor to become involved in the management of our public forests. To that end, the Monitor has raised money and begun contacting people in the scientific community to contribute their expertise. We plan to monitor the US Forest Service to see that true ecosystem management is established in our national forests. We represent the views of the vast majority of the citizens of Alabama. Therefore, we know that we are fighting for the rights of the majority.

—Lamar Marshall



# THE FLAWED FOREST PLAN OF 1985

by Lamar Marshall, residing forester - Bankhead National Forest



In 1985, the 50 year plan for the National Forests of Alabama went into effect. It, in effect, is a plan to clearcut every square inch of general forest and convert it into an evenaged, industrial tree farm. Only special places such as the exempt Sipsey Wilderness will remain natural and native. A natural, native forest is defined as one whose age, size, vegetative components such as trees and plant communities, reptiles and amphibians, soils, etc. are determined by the unmanipulated forces of nature. This is in stark contrast to a managed forest in which man artificially alters nature's work by manipulating the tree species, age, size, associated plants and animals. Gone is the original diversity and the spiritual essence of what we know as *wild*. Today, we are faced with a battle to save the last remnants of our last wild places.

The Forest Service's long range planning for multiple resources goes back to the 1950's. The first multiple-use program for the national forests was produced in 1959. Up until the last few years, the Forest Service held a persistent long-term goal of achieving an incredible 20 to 21 billion board feet (bbf) annual timber harvest from national forests. Not until the 1990 RPA Program did the Service finally abandon that unrealistic harvest goal, setting its sites instead at an 11 to 12 bbf annual harvest through the year 2040.

How did foresters rationalize for three decades a 21 bbf harvest objective, and what effect did it have on forest planning? It is evident that demand for resources such as wood, rather than environmental quality objectives and recreation, compelled their decision making.

**"The public lands in Alabama are scarce and precious. The national forests of Alabama should be managed to provide benefits that private land does not, and to maintain options and opportunities for future, as well as present generations."**



Adhering to the goal of maximum production meant remaking the national forests: replacing all old-growth with "thrifty young plantations" to maximize annual wood fiber growth and replanting commercial species to eliminate wasteful natural diversity. In the professional forestry culture there was no question that old-growth should be eliminated. The Society of American Forester's 1955 annual convention was dedicated to the theme "Converting the Old Growth Forest," and Forest Service representatives all parroted the new orthodoxy.

Everybody including the USFS knows that the original forest plan for Alabama was and still continues to be seriously flawed. Luckily the law requires the plan to be revised every 10 to 15 years. The Forest Service has just begun the 10 year revision that is scheduled to take three years to complete.

The watersheds of the Bankhead, and the agency itself, cannot afford to go hemorrhaging through another round of forest planning.

A question that must be considered in the Plan Revision is how much wild land in Alabama will be available for ecological reserves and primitive recreation, and will this be public or private? It is evident that private land in Alabama can fill the need for timber resources, since 95% of our timberlands is private. Essentially no private lands will be available in Alabama to supply the need for wild and recreational areas.

This brings out a simple truth: the public lands in Alabama are scarce and precious. The national forests of Alabama should be managed to provide benefits that private land does not, and to maintain options and opportunities for future, as well as present generations.

#### PROOFS OF THE FAILURE OF THE EXISTING FOREST PLAN FOR ALABAMA ARE:

- The destruction of archaeological sites such as the Indian Tomb Hollow fiasco.
- Logging damage to the Bartram National Recreation Trail and more recently the Pinhoti Trail in Talladega. Logging and recreation are incompatible.
- The destruction of the visual quality of Bankhead. Tourism and logging are incompatible.
- Massive forest conversion leading to the

eradication of over 60,000 acres of native hardwood stands in Bankhead and replacement with unnatural pine stands.

- Sedimentation of the streams of the Bankhead.
- The decimation of Red Cockaded Woodpeckers in Bankhead due to logging of original old growth pines.
- The trading away of public lands in the southern Bankhead to be stripped for coal. We have been informed that coal companies were solicited to acquire public lands.
- About 8 species of Bankhead mussels have had to be designated as threatened, rare or endangered.

Bankhead should be a protected reserve for endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Instead, the ETS species are threatened by the USFS policies that translate into selling public forests to industrial loggers.

- Not one Botanical Area in the Bankhead has ever been established even though its ecosystems have been declared "unique" by the Forest Supervisor of Alabama. In fact, it is one of the richest botanical areas in Alabama.
- Not one Research Natural Area has been established in the Bankhead.
- There is no protective designation for any portion of the Brushy Creek drainage in Bankhead which comprises about half of the Bankhead drainage system.
- There are no road density standards which could limit excessive logging roads. Wildlife needs roadless areas within which to breed and hide.
- There are no designated old-growth reserves in the Bankhead.
- Fragmentation of the Bankhead Forest contributes to the continuing decline in songbirds.
- The public was shafted by biased values that discriminated against biological and recreational benefits. Timber, on the other hand was given high values and preference over recreation. The plan came out with over 3 acres of public land designated for timber to each acre designated for wilderness or recreation.

To make a long story short, the Forest Service failed to adequately consider tourism, recreation, cultural resources, botanical resources, beauty, biodiversity and all of the things that really matter to you, the public. Instead, they have pursued the way of mammon, and sold your birthright to their Corporate

bedfellows while clearcutting, poisoning and burning their way into the Hall of Shame.

## HOW THEY DID IT

**"Remember, we are talking about the same government agency that sprayed the deadly ingredient of Agent Orange (2,4,5-T with dioxin) all over the Bankhead Forest - trees, flowers, salamanders, and all."**

The Forest Service created a computer model that in theory would generate a fair Forest Plan that would "Maximize Net Public Benefits" in an environmentally sound manner. It failed to do either. Their Net Public Benefits turned out to be "Gratify Corporate Lusts" and to hell with the environment. Remember, we are talking about the same government agency that sprayed the deadly ingredient of Agent Orange (2,4,5-T with dioxin) all over the Bankhead Forest - trees, flowers, salamanders, and all. They even wrote booklets proclaiming how great it was. The fallacy with the computer plan was allowing a Federal Timber Company (USFS) to input the data. They gravely overstated the value of pine trees as compared to preserving old growth hardwoods.

They omitted many values that recreation and tourism could have played in the economic prosperity of the surrounding counties. In other words, they stacked the cards and made the computer say "Cut Trees!"

## AND THEY WERE HONEST

The Forest Service admitted that the plan they stuck to the people of Alabama would be bad for the forest and the environment. In fact, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) states over and over that the activities of the plan would degrade the national forest. The classic and most profound statement in the FEIS is thus:

### "Adverse Effects That Cannot Be Avoided

However, some activities required to produce these resources result in adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. They are:

1. Soil compaction in skid trails, logging decks, and temporary haul roads as a result of timber harvesting;

2. Erosion as a result of soil-disturbing activities in the management of timber, range, wildlife, and road construction;
3. Sedimentation deposition in streamcourses as a result of erosion, lowering short-term water quality and degrading aquatic habitats;
4. Temporary increase in particulate matter in the atmosphere as a result of prescribed burning activities;
5. Decreases in visual quality as a result of timber quality and prescribed burning;
7. Disturbance of wildlife populations as a result of road construction and subsequent road use;
8. Short-term and possibly long-term effects on animals and animal habitats as a result of pesticide use;
11. Losses in diversity as a result of converting pine-hardwood to other forest types.

*USF FEIS for Land and Management Plan page. xviii*

## **"Public Trust has been replaced with Public Betrayal."**

With that note of caution in mind, the Forest Service began ten years ago to gallop full steam ahead into a riotous orgy of eradication of our public native forests that for the most part had been intact for thousands of years. Public Trust has been replaced with Public Betrayal. The public shouldn't fall for their interpretation of history in which they maintain that the Bankhead was a wasteland of eroded and cutover land when they took it over. Much of the Bankhead is inaccessible canyons which early logging operations couldn't get to easily.

## **THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE FOREST PLAN OF 1985**

### **CHAPTER FOUR - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

This section of the FEIS is very interesting. Notice the following excerpts:

#### "Pesticide Use -

- Pesticides may enter aquatic systems through application, runoff, or leaching, thus affecting water

quality. Soils may be contaminated for varying periods of time...

- Effects of pesticide use on soil microfauna and microflora are not well documented.
- Some plant species may be eliminated from the site for relatively long periods which may reduce diversity and future habitat quality for some animals.
- Herbicides and insecticides entering the soil can affect soil microflora and microfauna, reducing biological activity for varying periods of time."

### Poisons Used By the USFS

The following is information supplied by Mitch Lansky, a former timber cruiser who was drenched in his own backyard with pesticides sprayed by modified WWII bombers targeting spruce budworms in Maine. Lansky has published an exhaustive study of Industrial Forestry in the book *Beyond the Beauty Strip*.

"Chemical companies have been given the expensive and impossible task of "proving" that their pesticides are not harmful. This is like trying to prove that ghosts do not exist. Proving that the pesticides are harmful should be much easier, but surprisingly it is not. It is very difficult to establish a clear cause-and-effect relationship between a chemical application and a human illness.

The best that can usually be done is to gather evidence from animal studies and from statistics from human exposures. Even when highly suspicious evidence of harm exists, as with the herbicide 2,4,5-T, it may be decades before regulatory action is taken.

In the 1960s and 1970s scientists began to suspect, based on evidence from the U.S. Army's defoliation program in the Vietnam jungles, that 2,4,5-T (an Agent Orange ingredient) and its contaminant, TCDD dioxin, could cause miscarriages, birth defects, and cancer. Indeed, the suspicions were strong enough that, despite an ongoing war, Agent Orange use was suspended in Vietnam. Yet 2,4,5-T was vociferously defended by the manufacturers, Dow and Monsanto, and thousands of acres of forests and farmland were sprayed with the herbicide in the U.S. until the 1980s.

In 1983, activists and journalists uncovered evidence that EPA officials had hidden evidence of harm from 2,4,5-T and its dioxin contaminant in a study of Great Lakes fish. The officials had also concealed evidence that conclusively linked dioxin

(from herbicide spraying) to miscarriages in the Alsea region of Oregon. These officials had forbidden EPA scientists from discussing the Alsea project with the public or media. That same year, the EPA withdrew registration for 2,4,5-T. Top officials were fired or resigned.

Industrial forestry advocates (indeed, even manuals for forestry herbicide applicators) are now claiming that the most popular herbicides currently being used in Maine, Roundup and Garlon (the active ingredient of which is one atom different from 2,4,5-T), are safer than aspirin or table salt. These chemicals are "safe" based on a series of industrial "principles" that assert that the chemicals can do no harm and that the public is obligated to accept exposure to them.

The Principle of Product Infallibility asserts that:

- Any tests that support the contention that the chemical is "safe" are valid.
- Any tests that show any possible harm are invalid.
- Since "theoretically" nothing can go wrong, if anyone claims harm, the cause must be something other than the chemical. This argument is based on circular reasoning.

The Principle of Insignificant Quantity asserts that:

- Everything is made of chemicals.
- Anything is toxic in large amounts.
- The public is exposed to mind-boggling minute quantities of active ingredients (often measured in parts per million).
- Therefore, the chemicals pose no threats.
- Unfortunately, there are some substances that do have toxic, mutagenic, or carcinogenic effects at extremely minute doses. TCDD dioxin, for example, is regulated at parts per trillion, and some scientists think that is not low enough.

The risks are "acceptable" based on The Principle of Universal Victim Guilt:

- Everyone does something risky (e.g., drives a car, smokes, eats peanut butter, takes aspirin).
- Herbicide risks (as established by the Principles of Product Infallibility and Insignificant Quantity) are less than the common risks that people are already taking.
- Therefore, the risks are acceptable.

The above argument declares that since you are

already making yourself sick or even risking your life, it shouldn't bother you if a corporation contributes to these existing trends. The fallacy here is that, in the case of herbicides, the exposures are involuntary. Also, people do not normally drive cars or eat peanut butter because they have a death wish.

The risks are "acceptable" based on a fourth principle, The Principle of the Moral Obligation of Contamination:

- Everyone consumes wood and paper products.
- Herbicides are needed to grow wood for these products.
- Therefore, the public is obligated to accept the risks entailed in the production of the products they demand and consume.

A corollary to this principle is that anyone who does not accept the Moral Obligation of Contaminations is a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)-i.e., selfish. The fallacy here is that the risks are not only unwanted but preventable. The paper being produced now in Maine comes from trees that were grown without the use of herbicides, since herbicides have not been in use long enough to have had any effect on present yields. The risks being taken now are for consumers of the future. Neither current nor future consumers have much say over how the forest are to be managed. This is a corporate decision. If consumers had a say, they might want less clearcutting and spraying.

Aside from this flawed logic, the claims of herbicide safety by the forest and chemical industries have been strained by several other factors:

#### Fraudulent Testing

Herbicides such as atrazine, cacodylic acid, 2,4-D, dicamba, dinoseb, glyphosate, krenite, picloram, silvex, and simazine were registered, in part, from data generated by fraudulent testing by a company called Industrial Biotest (IBT). Industrial Biotest was the nation's largest commercial toxicological testing company until its fraudulent testing was discovered in 1977. Monsanto (manufacturer of Roundup) was IBT's largest customer and was reported to be one of four chemical companies that knew of IBT's fraudulent testing practices. Indeed, one IBT executive, Paul Wright, was employed by Monsanto before and after his tenure at IBT. All of Monsanto's toxicological registration data for Roundup came

from IBT. Wright was at while the lab performed fraudulent tests absolving Roundup of causing mutations in mice and tumors in rabbits.

IBT is not an anomaly in the lab-testing world. According to an article by Oregon activist Paul Merrell, "Numerous other laboratories have been found wanting in good lab practices and recordkeeping, with university laboratories generally ranking lowest." The public has no access to the results of much of the testing, as it is confidential.

Garlon (Triclopyr) - Garlon 4 is highly toxic to some aquatic organisms.

Bluegill sunfish 0.8 LC50(milligrams per liter)  
Very Toxic

The Spectrum report describes triclopyr as being "moderately toxic" to mammals, "slightly toxic" to birds, and "mildly fetotoxic"(toxic to a fetus) in mammals. "Highly," "moderately," "slightly," and "mildly" toxic are not the same as nontoxic. The Garlon label states "Do not graze treated areas or feed treated forage," and the U.S. Forest Service indicates that "treated areas should not be grazed for one year following application." While such recommendations may be useful to cattle owners, they are difficult to apply to browsing wildlife. It is impractical to put up elaborate fencing to exclude these species from sprayed areas, and most such creatures are illiterate and would not respond to posted warnings."

Triclopyr is only one of several poisons used on the Bankhead National Forest. Do our deer browse on it?

#### BACK TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

##### Nondesignation of Wilderness -

- Nondesignation of roadless areas will allow active management of all resources assigned to general forest. These areas will receive a timber emphasis. Additional roads will be constructed or reconstructed throughout the planning horizon. Water yields will increase, as will soil erosion and noise levels. Water and air quality will be reduced temporarily at localized areas...
- Manage-activities on the West Fork Sipsey Fork watershed could lower the recreation value of the proposed Wild and Scenic River. ( The Sipsey has since been designated Wild and Scenic )
- The naturalness of the undesignated (unprotected)



areas assigned to general forest will be reduced by interruption of the natural ecological processes, and lowering of air and water quality.

- Within -community diversity (species diversity) may suffer a net decrease as some plant species are favored and others discriminated against in management activities. Pine-hardwood forest types will be lost in favor of either pine or hardwood management types depending upon site capability.
- Availability of "old-growth" habitats will be decreased while seral-stage (young) habitats will increase.
- Habitat for squirrels and many forest birds will be somewhat less.
- Stream sedimentation will reduce quality for aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates.

#### Timber Harvesting -

- Timber harvesting may result in disturbance to wildlife populations in the immediate vicinity of operations.
- Stream sedimentation from erosion lowers habitat quality for aquatic organisms.

#### Forest Type Conversion -

- Finally, hardwoods on pine sites are converted by regeneration (clearcutting) to predominately pine. The conversion of forest types will result in a change in water yield from the affected site.

- Water yields will decrease when pine-hardwood is converted to pine and increase when it is converted to hardwood.
- Conversion alters the vegetative composition of the forest. The reduction in pine-hardwood acreage will reduce diversity. Habitats for some animals may be improved and may be adversely affected in the case of other species.
- Decreased streamflow may reduce the quantity of aquatic habitat available.

#### Prescribed Burning -

- The temporary increase in erosion and soil loss will result in a temporary increase in sediment yield to affected systems.

*US Forest Service - Final Environmental Impact Statement*

Remember, I am simply quoting the US Forest Service. What was that Jesus said? "By thy words thou wilt be justified, by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

**Why They Did It -** When the first national forests were created in 1891, conservationists were worried the unchecked westward march of cut-and-run timber barons would leave the nation without lumber, water or wildlife. The forest reserves were established and protected. The Forest Service was created in 1905 to run the preserves and now oversees 156 national forests and other reserves covering 191 million acres. During the first half of the twentieth century, the Forest Service became the symbol of conservation, wildlife and wild places. They produced such giants as Aldo Leopold and Bob Marshall whose land ethics have set timeless standards for conservation agencies across the nation.

According to the Forest Service itself, "In the 1950's, the Forest Service shifted from forest protection and custodial management to becoming a major provider of softwood timber supply. It's timber harvest jumped almost 800 percent between 1941 and 1971." Vol.2, Ecosystem Management.

The demands and the mood of the American public has shifted since the 1950's. Wilderness preservation, environmental concerns and an increasing appetite for recreation in natural forests has set the US Forest Service on a collision course with the public that it claims to serve.

# ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

## THE SUPPOSED END "OF TIMBER PRIMACY"

The USFS is in the process of developing and implementing the new principles of Ecosystem Management. Timber as the principle product of our National Forests is to be replaced with interrelated concepts such as sustainability, biodiversity, and the health of the soil.

Societies values have changed and the time for yielding to the democratic will of the people is long overdue.

According to their book on ecosystem management, "the Service now needs to recognize that ecosystems are composed of structures and processes that do not stop at public or private ownership boundaries. They now seek to focus first on healthy, diverse, sustainable ecosystems, then estimate output possibilities."

This means that industrial timber production practices of the past are obsolete. If this were not true, there would be no need for change and this new ecosystem management.

Words are wonderful but the proof will be on the ground. Will the Forest Service truly seek to preserve the native ecosystems of Alabama's National Forests? If not, they well may experience the fate of the New Zealand Forest Service who lost over 75 percent of New Zealand Forest Service lands when the public there "judged a machine-minded agency trustworthy to manage only their machine-model conifer plantations."

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF BANKHEAD** - It is not the will of the people of Alabama that the desired future condition of Bankhead be a chemically supported, monoculture of industrial pine tree farms that will be cut every 60 to 80 years. Modern Alabamians realize that the health of our public forests is more important than corporate welfare. Recreational reserves, conservation reserves and wilderness values are the desired future condition of our national forests. We must demand that the Forest Service change the way our forests are managed or demand that the Forest Service be converted into a managed agency.



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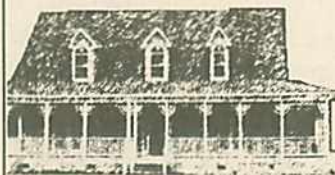
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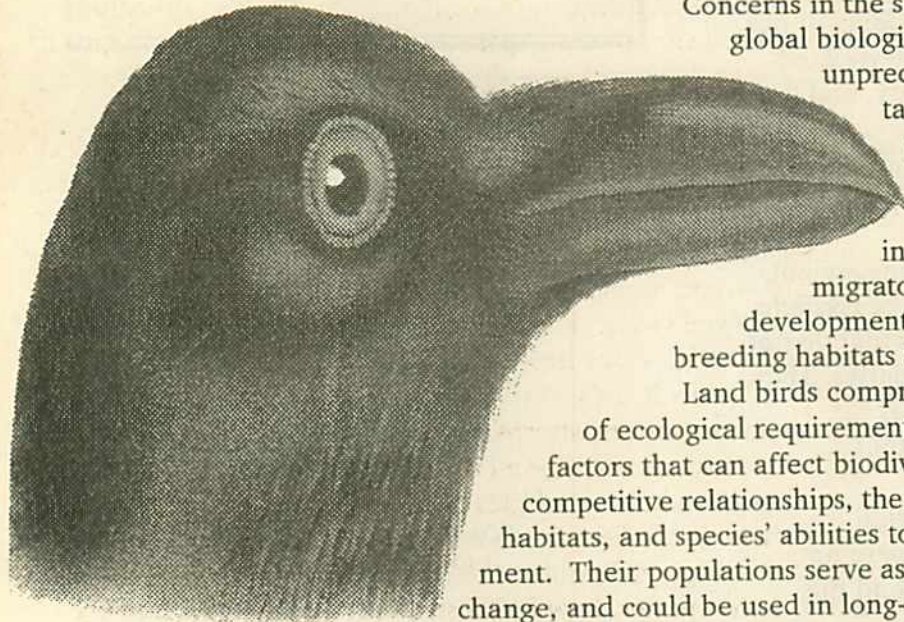
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# BIRDS

## Breeding Birds as Indicators of Biodiversity

By Ted Simons and Kerry Rabenold



Concerns in the scientific community over plummeting global biological diversity is based primarily on the unprecedented destruction of natural habitats worldwide. Migratory land-bird populations are particularly vulnerable to this phenomenon due to the extensive destruction of their wintering grounds in the tropics, destruction of migratory stop-over habitats due to urban development, and the loss and fragmentation of breeding habitats in North America.

Land birds comprise a diverse group with a wide range of ecological requirements, and are sensitive to a variety of factors that can affect biodiversity. These factors include changing competitive relationships, the loss, alteration or fragmentation of habitats, and species' abilities to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. Their populations serve as good indicators of environmental change, and could be used in long-term biodiversity monitoring as indicators of the well-being of many other animal species. They provide a model

system for interpreting and studying biological diversity issues because their life cycles illustrate the interconnection of global ecosystems.

Analysis of over 25 years of breeding-bird census data reveals that populations of many species of these Neotropical migrants have significantly declined over the past decade. Their plight illustrates the need for broad-based, cooperative approaches in addressing threats to biological diversity.

Ongoing research projects by various agencies and research institutions are examining a number of questions related to the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds. We have been studying bird populations in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), located in eastern Tennessee, for several years. Our research has focused on the utility of using the Park as a control site for larger scale populations monitoring programs of Neotropical birds. We also wanted to evaluate the effects of land practices on the diversity, abundance, and productivity of these birds in the southeastern United States.

***The long term questions we are addressing include:***

- Do changes in bird populations within GSMNP mirror those observed on a regional scale (suggesting that populations are responding to conditions in their wintering grounds in the Neotropics)?
- Do populations within national parks remain stable while regional populations decline (suggesting that populations are responding to conditions here in their breeding grounds)?
- Does the productivity of Neotropical migrants within these protected areas exceed that required for population stability (suggesting that national parks may serve as population "source" areas)?

The Southern Appalachians contains the largest block of protected forest in the eastern United States. Over five million acres of protected lands in the region include a matrix of national forests, federally designated wilderness areas, state lands, and Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs. At the core of this landscape is the 543,620-acre Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the largest temperate-zone national park in the East.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is recognized worldwide as a significant refuge of temperate forest biodiversity. Its steep, complex topography harbors many species of plants and animals along extreme

temperature and moisture gradients. Over 30 percent of the Park's forests are considered to be high quality old-growth, representing as much as 80 percent of the old-growth forest remaining the eastern U.S. These forests provide a rare opportunity to study the unique characteristics of undisturbed forest ecosystems.

We have established five paired old-growth/second-growth study sites in cove hardwood forests in the Park. These are moist, deciduous forests characterized by species such as tulip poplar, red maple, eastern hemlock, and silverbell. The old-growth sites have no history of direct human disturbance. These were paired with approximately 60-year old second-growth sites in the same watershed. The second-growth sites have reverted from homesteads to forests following the establishment of the Park in the 1930s. Breeding season bird censuses based on point counts at the paired sites over the past three years have begun to give us an appreciation of the relative importance of successional and old-growth cove hardwood forests to breeding birds.

Significant differences between the two habitats were detected in 33 species including 16 species which were significantly more abundant in old-growth stands and 17 species which were more abundant in second-growth stands.

Species with high densities in old-growth included black-throated blue warblers, winter wrens, dark-eyed juncos, blackburnian warblers, veerys, solitary vireos, and Canada warblers. Species with high densities in second-growth stands included ovenbirds, red-eyed vireos, hooded warblers, wood thrush, and American crows. A total of 54 species have been detected at all sites, representing 27 migratory species. Fifty-three of the 54 species have been detected on second-growth sites, versus a total of 44 on old-growth sites.

Diversity indices such as Simpson's can be used to examine patterns of species diversity on the landscape. These indices evaluate both the total number of species at a given site and how evenly species are distributed. We found diversity indices at old-growth cove hardwood sites to be consistently higher than those calculated for second-growth sites. These differences reflect the more even distribution of a larger number breeding bird species at old-growth sites. We hope to continue our studies to gain a better understanding of why old-growth sites are important to some species, how forest structure and composition are related to bird species diversity, and the role of old-growth forests in sustaining biological diversity in the Southern Appalachians.

The Southern Appalachians, in particular Great Smoky Mountains National Park, support some of the richest communities of breeding Neotropical migratory birds of any region in the United States. In some habitats over 80 percent of the breeding birds are Neotropical migrants. Protection of these natural areas is a fundamental strategy for the maintenance of biological diversity. They serve as refuges for unique and often endemic plants and animals and they may serve as population "source" areas to replenish more disturbed and less productive habitats.

Several recent studies have shown that breeding bird productivity is higher on large undisturbed tracts of forest than smaller forest fragments because birds nesting in these forests experience lower levels of nest predation and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds. These results suggest that a relatively high breeding success in the Smokies may be sustaining breeding bird communities on smaller forest fragments in the region. Research to examine these questions is ongoing. We hope our results will contribute to the development of landscape scale strategies to protect biological diversity in the Southern Appalachians.

*from Inner Voice*

*A publication of the Association of Forest Service Employees For Environmental Ethics - AFSEEE*




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
## OF HOW YOU CAN HELP REVISE YOUR FOREST PLAN

A GUIDE PRODUCED BY THE BANKHEAD WATERSHED PROJECT

### NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED !

#### HERE'S HOW - STEP BY STEP

First  Read the Vocabulary of Forest Planning.

Next  Sign up to get on the official mailout list of the Forest Service. It's all free and we will help you.

#### VOCABULARY OF FOREST PLANNING

##### Forest Plan - What is it?

The Forest Plan is the guidebook that includes the actions that will be implemented by the USFS on your forest for the next 10 to 15 years. This includes cutting down your old trees, clearcutting, poisoning and burning.

The plan is subject to change if you are willing to tell the Forest Service how you want your public lands managed.

If you prefer more recreation, preservation and beauty, you must tell them.

According to the Forest Service, there is a "contract" with the public. Therefore, a breach of that contract can be challenged.

##### Commenting - Easy to do and necessary.

We will teach you how to tell the Forest

Service how you want your forest to be taken care of.

- National Forests - Your public national forests in Alabama. Your children's heritage. Our last wild places. 660,000 acres in Alabama.
- District Ranger - The head Ranger in the Bankhead that makes the local decisions about how your forest is managed.
- Forest Supervisor - The top Forest Service official over all four national forests in Alabama.
- Regional Supervisor - The head Forest Service official over the Southern Region that covers several states.
- Forest Plan Revision - Time for changing the outdated plan. Time to tell the Forest Service to stop clearcutting, poisoning, and converting your native hardwood forests to pine plantations. Time to demand more recreation, beauty, hunting, hiking, canoeing, and native woodlands that won't be cut down. Sign up on page 111 of this magazine.

# What Are Forest Plans?

by Lauren Tuttle

Forest plans set goals such as timber sales, miles of roads to be built, miles of trails, and populations of wildlife to be maintained. To accomplish these goals, forest plans create management zones. Standards and guidelines then govern activities within these zones and provide a system of monitoring and changing management practices where necessary. It is a little mentioned fact that these forest plans also provide a basis for budgeting.

The Forest Service is required to have these forest plans under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. In 1982, the Forest Service issued rules and regulations regarding planning. Finally, from 1985-'87, forest plans were completed for National Forests. Within the next two or three years these plans will all be revised. The revision process is essential to protection of our forests.

This revision process will be very similar to the last time; the NFMA and the Forest Service's regulations are still the same. The Forest Service will begin with scoping. The public is asked to identify changes and issues with current management which need to be addressed. The changes must be fundamental, not just fine tuning.

The scoping process is then followed by inventories including wilderness, potential old growth, visual quality, timber land suitability, etc. The inventories result in ecological classifications.

Finally, a list of alternatives is presented and the plan of choice can be advocated. The Forest Service ultimately chooses a plan which will be in effect for the next ten to fifteen years.

Planning rule 36 CFR 219.17 states, "When revising the forest plan, roadless areas on public land within and adjacent to the forest shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas." Once an area is declared Wilderness by Congress it is then permanently protected for non-motorized vehicle recreation and is closed for logging and mining.

The 1964 passage of the Wilderness Act saw only two areas in the east designated as Wilderness: Shining Rock and Linville Gorge. Land east of the Mississippi was not considered Wilderness

because it had been previously cut. This situation did improve, however, in 1975 with the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act. Lands which had recovered their "Naturalness" could now be designated Wilderness.

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# Recreation vs. Timber

By Alex Varner

By the year 2000 recreational use of the BNF is projected to double 1988 use levels. Projections also indicate a 150% increase in wilderness use on southern National Forests by the year 2010. In order to meet these demands the USFS needs to rethink their management objectives. In fact, the USFS in Alabama has no



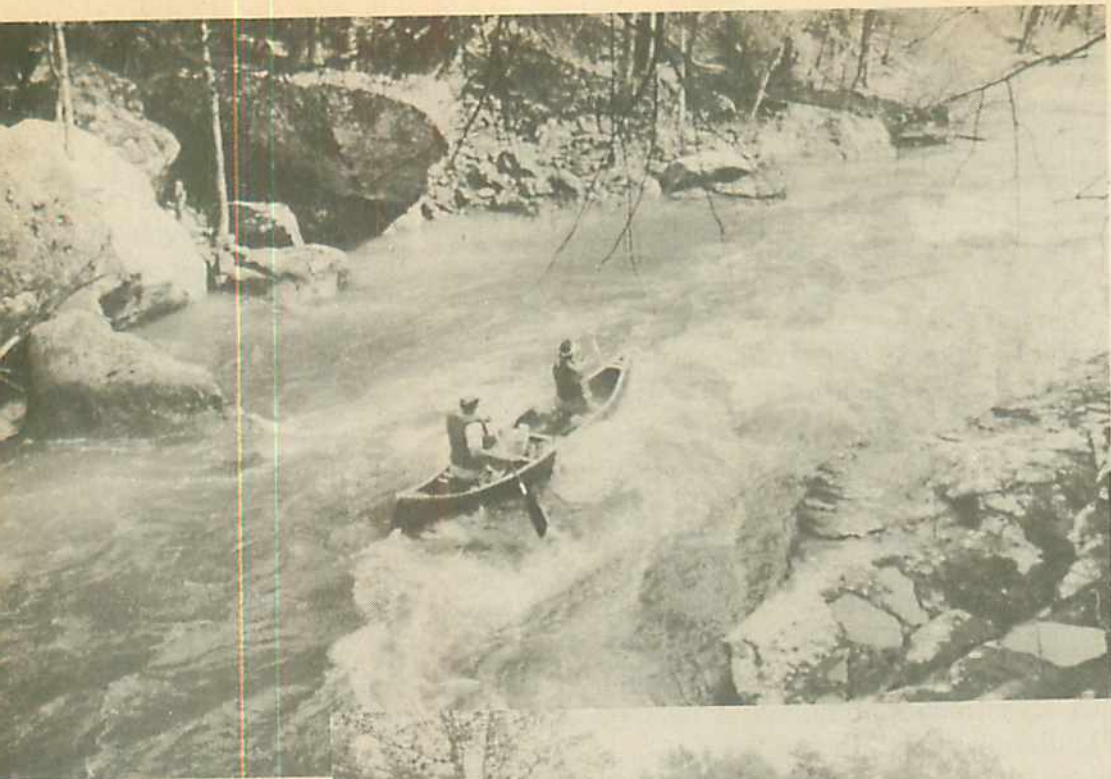
method for predicting the demand for developed recreational opportunities. The current forest plan for Alabama admits the need to "determine a method for accurately predicting the demand and economic value for developed and dispersed recreational opportunities."

In a study conducted for the USFS in the Bankhead National Forest (BNF), the following conclusion was reached - "Managers of these resources can in no way provide optimum resource use opportunities for society at large unless more accurate demand estimates are developed. Timber expenditures on our national forests often exceed recreational expenditures by 5 times."

These forests belong to all Americans and most don't want an emphasis placed on logging. According to a poll commissioned by the Forest Service, most Americans want national forests to be used for recreation and wildlife protection rather than for the production of lumber or other commercial products. In fact, 79% agreed that the long term health of the public forests should not be compromised by the short term need for natural resources.

In a survey done for the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors the conclusion showed that 71% of all Americans choose their recreational sites primarily for their beauty, and that people generally prefer old-growth forests over young forests and natural looking forest stands over those with obvious human impacts. The first Chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, once said, "National Forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good, the people themselves must make clear how they want them run." I think the people have made it clear.

Let's look at an economic comparison between timber receipts and recreational revenue generated on the Bankhead. The FS is required to give 25% of revenue from timber receipts to the county containing the National Forest. In Winston and Lawrence counties, where most of the BNF is located, the combined pay-



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ment to the counties in 1994 was \$378,761. Now look at these figures that came from an executive summary done for the Forest Service in the BNF. "The estimated aggregate spending resulting from development at Clear Creek and Houston recreation areas is \$11.1 million, of which nearly \$5.5 million was spent locally. Obviously this injection of funds into Walker and Winston counties and the state of Alabama economies is significant." Consider that this was the revenue from only two recreational areas in the BNF. In fact, the estimated gross economic benefits of recreational opportunities on southern Appalachian National Forests equal \$379 million a year, more than ten times the \$32 million in gross annual benefits attributable to the timber program.

With this marked increase in visitation for recreation in our national forests it seems the FS would concentrate more on meeting the needs of recreational users. We have fewer miles of trails in Alabama than any of our bordering states. The trails and campsites we do have are abused and in need of repair. In a study conducted on the Sipsey Fork Wild and scenic river a few noted recommendations were that the USFS designate more trails and campsites, make more frequent checks of the campsites, and

improve existing trails in order to reduce future impacts of visitor use.

An issue of special concern to many is the incompatibility of timber management and recreation. In the aforementioned study done on the Sipsey fork this quote stands out; "Forest visitors in general look for places to visit which have minimal evidences of management through tree harvests (Hibbert 1993). Obviously the river corridor cannot provide this experience unless changes in timber management occur on both public and private lands." Canoeists surveyed in this same study indicated that their highest levels of concern were the amount of litter seen and timber management activities within sight or sound of the river, respectively.

Recreational activities in the NF are incompatible with clearcuts. Hikers don't want to hike through tree farms and briar patches, nor do they want the sounds of birds singing replaced with chainsaws laboring through an old hardwood. We don't need more logging roads and skidder trails, or herbicides dumped on to the land. It's time we got away from the short-sightedness of timber management on our public forests.

Not all recreational opportunities can be given a monetary value. As a forest user, if I was asked to place a strictly monetary value on my most recent trip into the Sipsey Wilderness I'm afraid that I could not. The experience of this trip that I took with old and new friends was closely woven into the place in which we were. The dogtooth violets had just begun to bloom, their flowering crowns lightly tipping to the forest floor. The woods were coming alive again for spring. Before the group split up to return to school and jobs we hiked through something that's hard to avoid these days in the Bankhead or anywhere else: a clearcut. The woods we had just left that were so full of life sharply contrasted with this devastation. The exposed soil was baked dry and the spirit was gone from this place.

*Sacrificing the beauty and diversity of our forests for corporate profits is not the way to go. It's spring-time so get out and enjoy the reawakening of the forest, bask in the beauty of nature, but when you get home be sure to drop a letter to the Forest Service and express your concerns about the way they are managing your public lands. Ask to be put on the mailing list for the forest plan revision and the scoping lists for projects so that your concerns can be considered in the decision making process.*



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# ROADING OUR FORESTS TO DEATH

By Lamar Marshall

Roads and road-building are currently the greatest threat to wilderness and biodiversity on public lands in the United States. When roads go in, destruction of wilderness accelerates as logging, mining, off-road vehicle use, all manner of land development and other human impacts are allowed to disrupt the ecosystem.

For many species, roads turn a previously intact landscape into isolated islands of habitat between which there is little or no movement. Roads and road-building increase erosion and sedimentation of aquatic habitats, introduce toxic pollutants into otherwise remote and pristine watersheds, serve as corridors for the invasion of opportunistic non-native species that displace native species, facilitate the invasion of pathogens, increase the incidence of human-caused fire, allow easier access for wildlife poaching, bring noise pollution to previously quiet wilderness, and cost a great deal of money.

The Forest Service is responsible for 370,000 miles of roads. This is more than a mile of road for each square mile of land contained in the 300,000 square miles of all 156 National Forests. It is more than eight times the length of the Federal Interstate Highway System. Congress appropriates, on the average, a quarter billion dollars every year for the Forest Service's road building and maintenance budget, while budgets for wildlife and fisheries go begging. In addition, maintenance of gated roads costs an average of \$65 per mile per year. It is time to use this money to obliterate roads rather than to build and maintain them.

The Bankhead Watershed Project is looking at the "open road density" (ORD) and the "total road density" (TRD) standards of the national forests in Alabama.

**Road Density** - Road density is the total number of miles of roads within a square mile. All National Forests should have a *standard* that limits the number of miles of roads per square mile. Forest plans may have road standards specific to various species of wildlife. Some species of wildlife simply cannot tolerate excessive roads. Road density standards should always be established for areas that contain the habitat of sensitive, threatened, or endangered species that are affected by the human use of open roads.

To date, it appears that the Forest Service in Alabama has no road density standards.

National Forest Planning in Alabama should determine how many miles of roads are healthy for the watershed within which they lie.

Roads are the leading contributor to silting the forest streams. They also fragment the forest. Forest fragmentation is a top cause in the decline of certain species of birds. Roads are used by people and machines to get into the heart of wildlife habitat areas.

Large blocks of unbroken forests are natural and the norm in native ecosystems. Roads eliminate wild, unbroken areas. Roads are costly to build and to maintain. They, for the most part, exist in our national forests in Alabama for one purpose - to get our trees out.



*An illegal bypass around a forest service gate.*

# What Famous People Said About The Forest Plan

## Department of Conservation

" Many of the perennial streams on the National Forests in Alabama, particularly those on the Bankhead and Talladega Divisions, are fast flowing gravel bottomed streams. These streams are highly susceptible to damage from silt deposition....

It is strongly recommended that the U.S.Forest Service monitor the silt and sand build up in the perennial streams within the National Forest. We can attest to the fact that prior to clear-cut operations on the Bankhead, practically all streams were free flowing, clear, rock and/or gravel bottom streams.

Whereas today, some twenty-six years later, practically all streams are heavily laden with sand and silt. There are heavy sand bars on the inside curve of the banks of the major streams of Brushy Creek and Sipsey River. The thirty five acre Brushy Lake is all but completely filled with sand and silt. These sand and silt deposits are a direct result of past and present logging operations. The stream quality within the Bankhead Forest has been and is continuing to be seriously adversely affected by run-off from clear-cut operations."

*Charles D. Kelley, Director, State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, July 10th, 1985 - comments on the LRMP of the USFS.*

"Only after the last tree has been cut down. Only after the last river has been poisoned. Only after the last fish has been caught. Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."

*Cree Indian Prophecy*

## United States Department of The Interior

.....In our view, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Plan in their present form do not sufficiently address several key issues of concern to this Department.....

"Two general aspects of forest planning are of specific concern. First, we note that private forests in Alabama are producing large amounts of timber grown on short rotations, thereby favoring wildlife species associated with early forest succession. Those species of wildlife requiring forest habitat typical of long rotation saw timber management are therefore diminished and should be emphasized in planning for Alabama's National Forests.

Our second point relates to the need for considerations of wilderness areas in Alabama. The document should provide some perspective of the acreage of potential wilderness in Alabama's National Forests versus that available from other forests in the State and region. Wilderness areas are favorable for those species of wildlife favoring climax stage management."

*James H. Lee, Regional Environmental Officer, United States Dept. of the Interior. Office of Environmental Project Review. comments on the LRMP July 19, 1985*

# Monitor Exclusive:

## THE ORIGINAL FOREST OF THE BANKHEAD

by Lamar Marshall

What was the Bankhead Forest like when the first settlers moved here? The native forest and its unique ecosystems have been severely damaged by the industrial forestry practice of conversion to a tree farm by the US Forest Service, a federal timber company.

"Conversion" ( replacing original mixed hardwood/pine forest with pine farms) of the mixed native forest is the perversion of nature, pure and simple. Beautiful old growth hardwood ridges are eradicated and replaced with a monoculture of pines that resembles the coastal pine forest of Florida. Entire ridgetop ecosystems have been exterminated from our public forest here in the Bankhead. Sacred ridges where our grandfathers hunted deer and turkey are unidentifiable now. Trees that would have lived on for hundreds of years were replaced with genetically superior pine trees that will be allowed to grow in periodically "poisoned" soils for only a few decades. They will be cut and the process of one stage or two stage clearcutting (seedtree), poisoning and unnatural burning will begin all over again. The resiliency of the forest which is equivalent to the immune system of the human body will be weakened with each unnatural industrial cycle. The productivity of the land is diminished with each pine crop, and the health of the Warrior Mountains is forever altered.

We cannot combat the evils of corporate influence with simple complaints. We must now call on unbiased scientists to speak out and to produce the evidence necessary to bring about change.

The first scientific study contracted by the Bankhead Monitor on the Bankhead National Forest is a study that tells us what types of tree species and forest communities were originally here in the Warrior Mountains. This study was done by biologist Ken Wills who used the original 1817 government surveyors notes to reconstruct the Bankhead Forest area.

Excerpts from the finished study are published here for the first time:  
(words in parenthesis are mine)

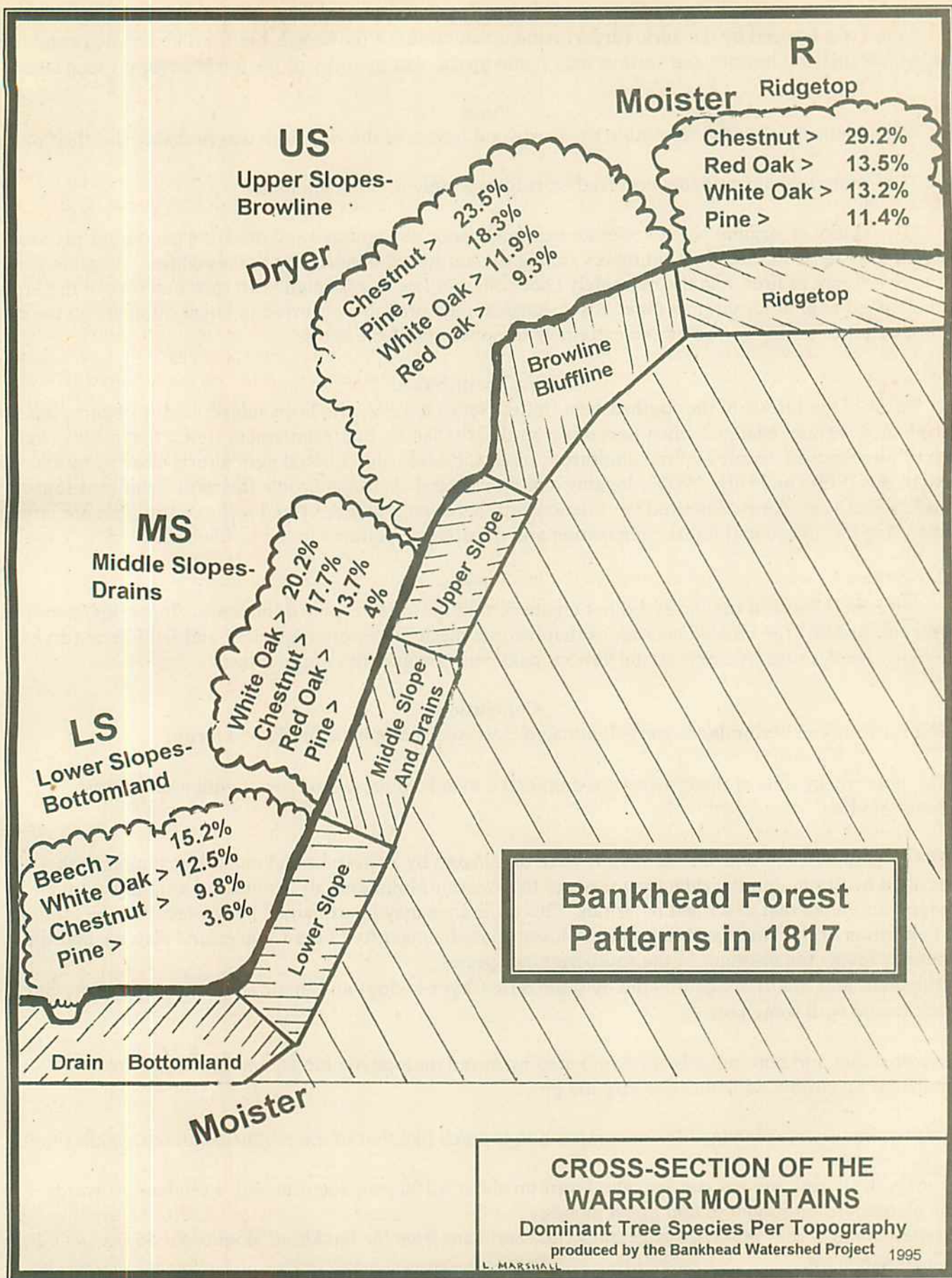
"Forest patterns were categorized by four natural divisions of the topography - slope position combined with rockiness of the site. Slope position, combined with rockiness of the site, affect soil moisture within each topographic site, and this in turn affects vegetation."

### DOMINANT SPECIES BY PERCENT

	SITE	Most Abundant	2nd Most Abundant	3rd Most Abundant	4th Most Abundant
1	Lower Slope-Bottomland	Beech 15.2%	White Oak 12.5%	Chestnut 9.8%	Maple 8.9%
2	Middle Slope-Drains	White Oak 20.2%	Chestnut 17.7%	Red Oak 13.2%	Hickory 7.3%
3	Upper Slope-Browline	Chestnut 23.5%	Pine 18.3%	White Oak 11.9%	Red Oak 9.3%
4	Ridgetop	Chestnut 29.2%	Red Oak 13.5%	White Oak 13.2%	Pine 11.4%

Note: Pine was 3.6% on the Lower Slope-Bottomland and 4% on the Middle Slope-Drains





### Forest Types

"Pine was favored by the xeric (drier) habitat conditions of the brows, but even under such conditions hardwoods such as chestnut and various oaks made up the vast majority of the forest cover on such sites."

### Pines

"The dominant pine species within the hardwood forests of the ridgetops was probably shortleaf pine."

"Therefore loblolly probably occurred on ridgetops only in small amounts."

"The ability of virginia pine to tolerate extremely poor nutrient and soil moisture conditions probably allowed it to occur in substantial numbers among the hardwood majority on the browlines. Virginia pine is not very tolerant of fires, and the extremely poor soils and low fire frequency on rock outcrops of the brow provide good habitat for virginia pine. Also, shortleaf pine probably occurred in lesser numbers on the brows, but loblolly was probably rare on the extremely dry outcrops of the brows."

### Natural Disturbance

"Most of the forests of the southeastern United States have always been subject to disturbance, but the disturbance regimes changed when Europeans settled the land. In presettlement times, the major disturbances were caused mainly by fire, windthrow, insects, disease, and limited agricultural clearing by aborigines. In the 1800's and early 1900's, logging and agricultural clearing become the most significant sources of disturbance. This change obscured the relationships between topography and soil moisture that are largely responsible for differential forest composition and disturbance patterns in the southeastern U.S."

### Fires

"Fires in the rest of the forest did not create conditions to favor pine dominance. Topographic moisture levels and possibly fire created conditions that favored mesic (moisture requiring) and semi-xeric (drier tolerant) species such as chestnut and various oaks over the majority of the forest."

### Conclusion

- The canyons and bottomlands were dominated by mixed mesophytic hardwood forest.
- The poor, rocky soils of the brows were dominated by mixed hardwood forest with a substantial amount of pine.
- The ridgetops of the Warrior Mountains were dominated by a chestnut and oak forest similar to that described by Braun, but the ridgetop forests of the Warrior Mountains also contained a significant pine component unlike that described by Braun. This difference may be explained by the fact that the latitude and elevation of the Warrior Mountains are lower than the majority of the Cumberland Plateau, and this indirectly favors the presence of the southern pine species.
- Ridgetops and drains are dominated by semi-xeric (drier-loving) and mesic (moisture-loving) species of hardwood with some pine.
- Lower slopes and bottomlands are dominated by mixed mesophytic forest, and browlines are dominated by hardwood with some Virginia pine.
- The nonintensively managed forest composition is much like that of the preEuropean settlement times.
- Today, the Forest Service manages the forest on about a 100 year rotation with a tendency towards pine plantations on ridgetops and upper slopes.

*Anyone wanting a copy of this 24 page study can obtain one from the Bankhead Monitor for \$5.00. P.O. Box 117, Moulton, AL*

# BANKHEAD

## A CULTURAL STRONGHOLD OF ALABAMA UNDER ASSAULT BY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC LOOTERS

By Lamar Marshall

### The Fate of Indian Tomb Hollow Rests in the Hands of Forest Supervisor John Yancy.

Perhaps the most heartfelt loss in the conversion and logging of the National Forests in Alabama is the destruction of cultural resources. Many structures and remains of the early settler homesteads were not considered significant by the Forest Service. They have been razed across the forest in the early and latter parts of this century as the Forest Service began to consolidate the reserve lands in the Bankhead. Few have survived.

In 1992, when public wrath was at a peak over the Indian Tomb fiasco, the University of Alabama's Alabama Museum of Natural History was contracted by the Forest Service to produce "A Cultural Resource Overview" of the Bankhead Forest. The Bankhead Watershed Project is asking the Service to make full consideration of the results of this 114 page study. Is Indian Tomb significant? What do the experts say?

"A significant and current case in point is, of course, Indian Tomb Hollow. Indian Tomb Hollow is the reported site of a late 18th century battle between the Creeks and Cherokees. Narrowing our consideration to just that event, there is no archaeological evidence to support this claim and we can not build a case for archaeological significance of the site. What primary historical documentation there may be for the site is unclear and at this time we can not build a case for historical significance. Historical significance of places and events associated with primarily non-literate groups is difficult in any case. Nevertheless, the consideration of cultural significance remains. If there is any definable group of people of Native American descent who traditionally recognized themselves as a distinct community and based part of that recognition and their group identity on Indian Tomb Hollow, then Indian Tomb Hollow certainly may hold cultural significance for these people." Division of Archaeology, Alabama Museum of Natural History



*The Arrowmaker a painting by Jim Manasco*

“ Site Preservation in General Is Another Important Issue in Bankhead National Forest. Illegal Excavation of Sites Here Is A Serious Problem.”

Univ. of Ala. Div. of Archaeology

### Landmarks

Landmarks are fixed markers indicating boundaries. They are prominent features identifying a landscape. They are events marking important stages of development and turning points in history. They are places having historical significance set aside for preservation.

There are a number of landmarks in Bankhead National Forest that were important in the lives of the long-ago people that were native to this area. For instance there is Tenchacunda Creek (Wild Corn Creek), that heads up in the forest and flows into the Tennessee River. Today we call it Flint Creek. In 1794 there was a Chickasaw town just below the mouth of the creek, where the city of Decatur now stands. President George Washington affirmed that all the land west of Tenchacunda was Chickasaw country. There was also Long Leaf Pine Creek, that we now call Crooked Creek. Its headwaters rise in the Warrior Mountains and it flows southward to the Black Warrior River. Until 1786 it was a boundary between lands belonging to the Creek Nation and those of the Chickasaw. There is Indian Tomb Hollow and Kinlock Rockshelter. There are many others that archeologists and historians have not yet discovered.

“ A country with no regard for its past will have little worth remembering in the future.”

Abraham Lincoln

Landmarks themselves have little intrinsic economic value. Their main worth is intangible. It lies in their historic quality, that keeps alive, in our unconscious, our understanding of who we are and what we are as a people. If we believe that there were things about the lives and aspirations of our ancestors that were admirable, and should be kept in our own society, then we should take great care of the landmarks that define the world of our forefathers. *Charles M. Hubbert*

### **The Bankhead Watershed Project Seeks National Recognition for Kinlock Historic Region** By Josh Hinson

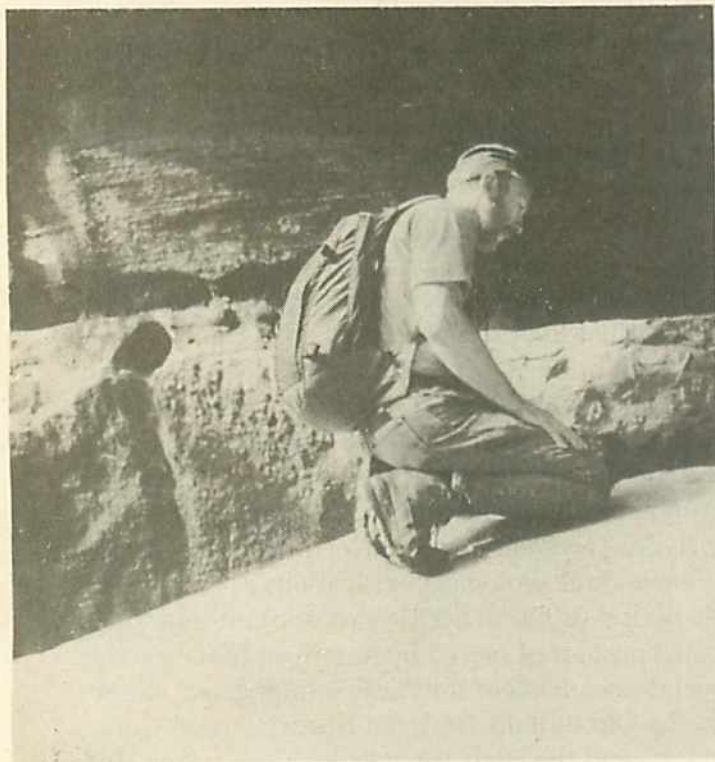
The Bankhead Watershed Project is continuing its campaign to have the United States Forest Service nominate the Kinlock Historic Region to the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed Kinlock Historic Region includes the sites of the Kinlock Rock Shelter, the Kinlock Spring, the David Hubbard Homeplace, the Hubbard's Mill site at Kinlock Falls, the covered bridge site on Hubbard Creek, a slave and Civil War cemetery, the Byler Road and Byler Road fork by Kinlock Spring, the Old Buffalo Trail near Kinlock Spring, the Jane (Aunt Jenny) Bates Brooks Johnson Homeplace, the Poplar Springs Cemetery, the North Buttram Gulf Indian Shelter, the East and West Basin Creek Indian Shelters, and the High Town Path.

The Kinlock Historic Region contains numerous archaeologically significant rock shelters and camp sites. The Kinlock Rock Shelter, which contains the finest petroglyphs (rock carvings) in North Alabama, is one of the largest natural rock shelters in the southeast United States. Archaeological excavations at Kinlock have yielded evidence of occupation dating back to the Archaic period (8000 to 5000 years ago) through the Late Woodland period (1300 to 1000 years ago). The site is still considered sacred by American Indians today, and it is occasionally used for ceremonial purposes by local descendants of the Native Americans. Other prehistorically important sites include the Kinlock Spring, the Old Buffalo Trail, the North Buttram Gulf Indian Shelter, the East and West Basin Creek Indian Shelters, and the High Town Path. The Kinlock Historic Region, while being the location of numerous prehistoric sites and shelters, was also home to a variety of historically significant events and people.

The Byler Road, which joins the prehistoric and historic High Town Path, was first surveyed by Captain Edmund Pendleton Gaines in 1807. The Byler Road was the first state road in Alabama, and the legislature which led to its construction was signed by Governor Bibb on December 15, 1819, just one day after the state of Alabama was admitted into the union. Once called "The Main Street of North Alabama," the Byler Road was traveled by Union troops on at least three occasions during the Civil War. The High Town Path, which transverses the northern portion of the Bankhead National Forest, was an Indian trail that extended from near the present location of Atlanta, Georgia, westward through the Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw Nations, and into Mississippi. The Path acted as a boundary between the three Indian nations, and it followed the Eastern Continental Divide through the Black Warrior Mountains.

Concerned about the future of these important historical sites, The Bankhead Watershed Project contacted the United States Forest Service on November 3, 1994 regarding the Forest Services efforts to nominate the Kinlock Rock Shelter to the National Register of Historic Places. At that time, James Ramey, District Ranger for the Bankhead National Forest, said that efforts were "still underway to locate any cultural materials and field notes from previous excavations at Kinlock Shelter" (Personal communication, November 23, 1994). "Once we have made an exhaustive search of the past work," Ramey continued, "we will evaluate the materials and notes found to see if we can make a nomination from information already gleaned from the site. If not, then additional testing may be required." The nomination has not yet progressed far enough for the Forest Service to determine perimeter or acreage of the site.

The Bankhead Watershed Project again contacted James Ramey on November 15, 1994 in order to request information concerning any and all efforts made by the Forest Service Zone Archaeologist to determine if the site of the old grist mill at Kinlock Falls qualifies for inclusion in the State or National Register of Historic Places. Ramey responded on November 23, 1994, saying that our letter had been forwarded to Kathy Manning, the Forest Zone Archaeologist.



*Professor Harvard Ayers of Appalachian State University in N.C. examines Kinlock petroglyphs.*

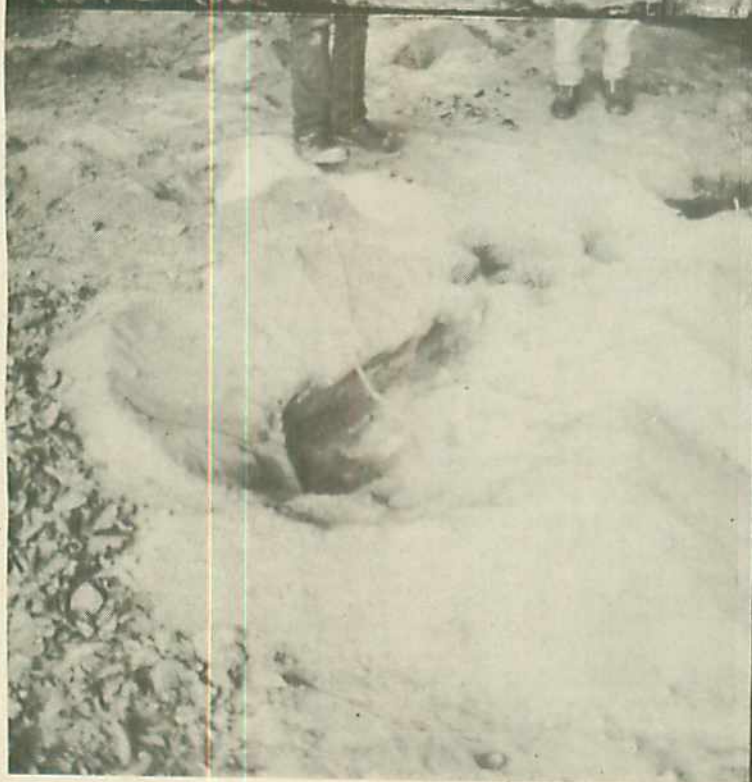
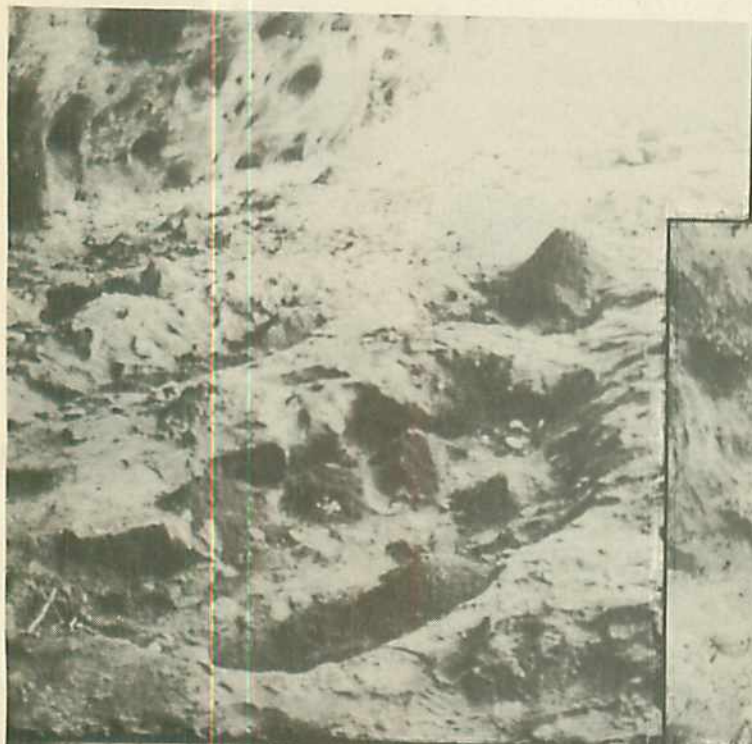


*Turkey track glyph in shelter north of Kinlock.*

# Looting Our Public Lands!

Looters are digging, sifting and stealing prehistoric artifacts & worse — digging the graves of ancestors. Report anyone seen digging or removing artifacts from Bankhead.

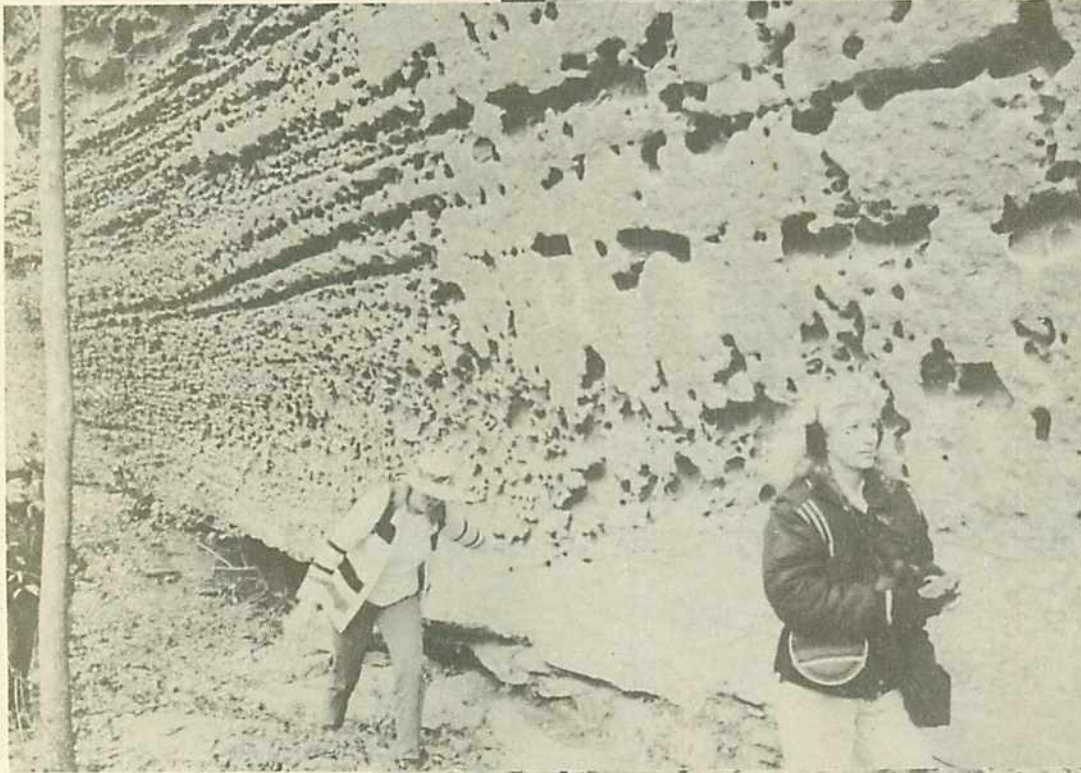
*Call USFS Headquarters (205) 489-5111*



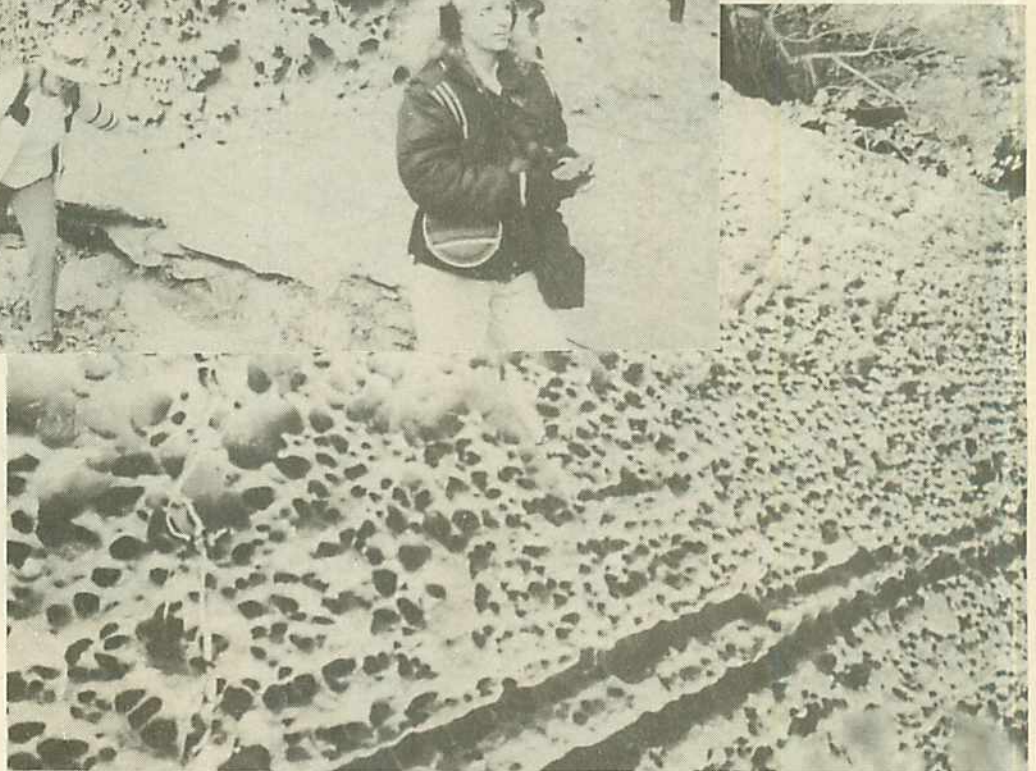
# INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW

## MORTOR STONE

*Whiskey Still Shelter — Indian Tomb*



**Unique Geological Formations Abound In Indian Tomb Hollow.**



# CULTURAL RESERVOIRS

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## THE DECATUR DAILY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1993

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### 900 acres in Indian Tomb Hollow protected during study

By Jonathan Rappaport  
D&A Staff Writer

Almost 900 acres in Backhead Hollow, Georgia's Indian Tomb Hollow, has gained federal protection while authorities determine whether it is a sacred or historical site.

The U.S. Forest Service announced the area will be protected from further clearing.

Special interest groups and wide

they are pleased by the ruling. They also are wary about reports long-time to a statement released by the service.

"The Forest Service is starting to do all ground disturbing work, such as timber harvesting and road construction until special studies can be conducted by the area," he said. "I think state land and federal land are being protected through its preservation," Marshall said.

"This could be a major break-through in preservation," Marshall

validates evidence supporting claims that the area is considered as sacred or historical.

Yancy said the protected area includes the upper reaches of Gillespie Creek and a 200-foot buffer zone on both sides having shallow, riparian limestone bluffs. He said he published "The Backhead Murals," a preservation magazine, called the area a preservation pool area.

"This could be a major break-through in preservation," Marshall

said. "This makes us very happy. After fighting for about 14 months it's like a home victory."

But Butler Gillespie, chief of the Blue Clan of the Echota Cherokee Tribe, said the Forest Service has protected some things. He said he would like to see specific boundaries and to know whether any still existing sites are being considered for protection.

The Forest Service has requested \$150,000 in federal money to con-

duct "archival efforts."

Yancy's statement said if Indian Tomb Hollow cannot be confirmed within federal guidelines for doing a sacred or historical site, then there is a possibility of "some other form" of designation. Gillespie's concern may not be resolved until further study of the area, according to Forest Service officials.

"We've got a long way to go," Gillespie said. "We'll just have to

see what kind of regulations we can do with them. It's a slow process. It seems good to me that they would at least consider this."

"One thing I do want to see is that they establish some boundaries when we designate the area in question," Gillespie continued. "They wanted to know exactly what the boundaries were that we considered Indian Tomb Hollow. They don't

know exactly what the boundaries were that we considered Indian Tomb Hollow. They don't

### Hollow

Continued from page A1

the area but they didn't show us a map. So we were a map as we can compare them to see if there is a discrepancy."

Gillespie also said old drawings and maps are not the only way that should be considered for protection. "They overlook the fact that we have people in particular areas who have been there for a long time," he said.

and with a decision that will make both parties happy," he said.

Marshall said he is sure the protection will be at least three acres, said the "Backhead Murals" magazine, a "sacred" photograph site.

The High Tomb Falls, an ancient waterfall through the forest, and Indian Tomb Hollow.

were used in the Forest Service's drawing of the area.

In spite of their reservations, both Marshall and Gillespie say they are pleased that someone is listening to their concerns.

"It does show the Forest Service is working with the public and going to the will of the people," Marshall said. "The majority of the people in the area want the area protected."

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#### LEGEND

--- ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)

Gillespie Indian Tomb Hollow

### INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW



## FOREST SUPERVISOR DECLARES BANKHEAD HAS UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS!

According to Alabama Forest Supervisor John Yancy, "We believe the Bankhead National Forest has unique ecosystems..." The Bankhead National Forest was dropped for inclusion in the Southern Appalachian Assessment, a scientific inventory of the natural resources in the Southern Appalachian national forests. For years the Bankhead has been managed under a plan called "Vegetation Management of the Southern Appalachians."

A map in this book includes the Bankhead National Forest. Are we to believe that Bankhead ecosystems are less like the Appalachians than the Talledega (which is included) when the Talledega doesn't even have Hemlock growing in it? Something doesn't make sense.

Indeed, the Cove Hardwood Forests of the Smoky Mountains greatly resemble the hardwood bottoms of the Bankhead. According to Ted Simmons of the National Biological Survey at NCS University, cove hardwood forests in the Smoky Mountain National Park are "characterized by species such as tulip poplar, red maple, eastern hemlock, and silverbell."

The cove hardwoods of Bankhead are characterized by this very assemblage of trees.

We also believe the Bankhead has unique ecosystems. Here's why:

## PLEISTOCENE RELIC CANYONS

### THE STONE AGE REMNANTS IN THE BANKHEAD

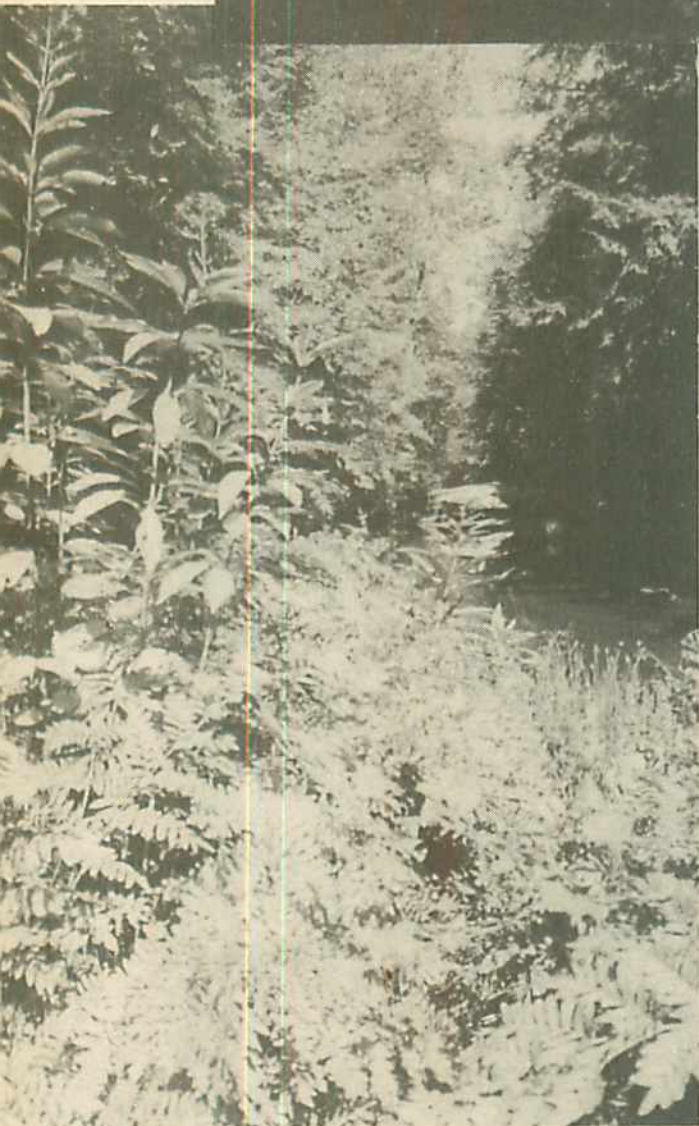


*Indian Pipes*



*Old-growth Trees*

*Capsey  
Creek  
Canyon*



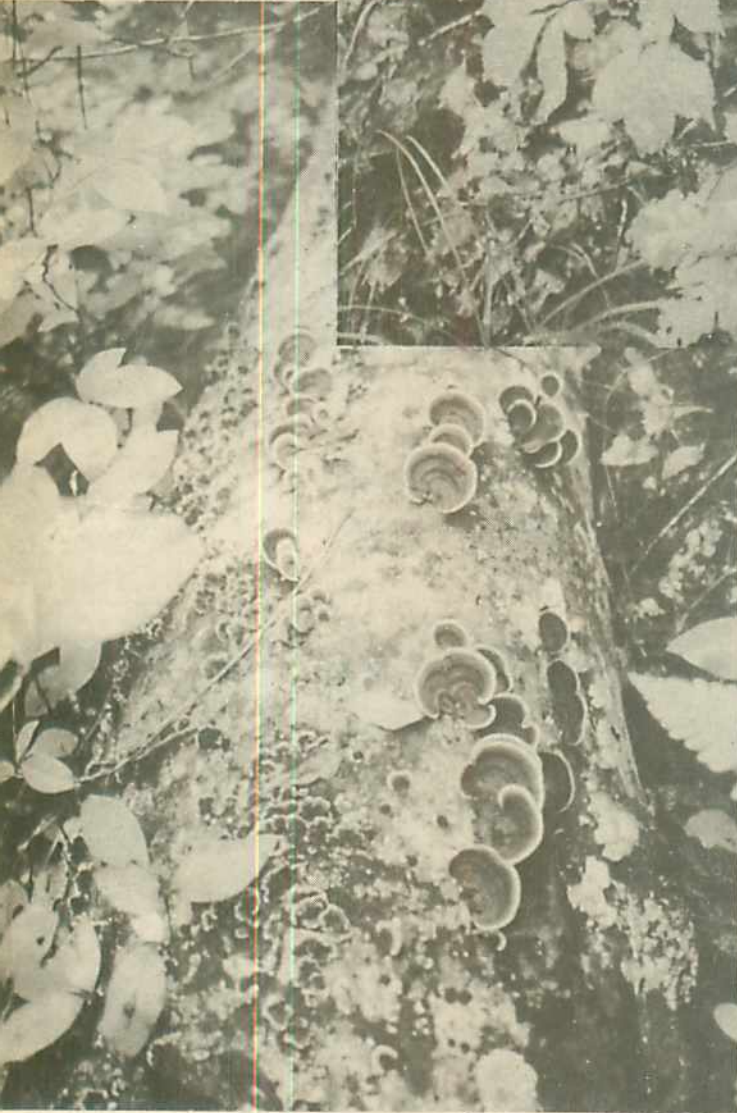
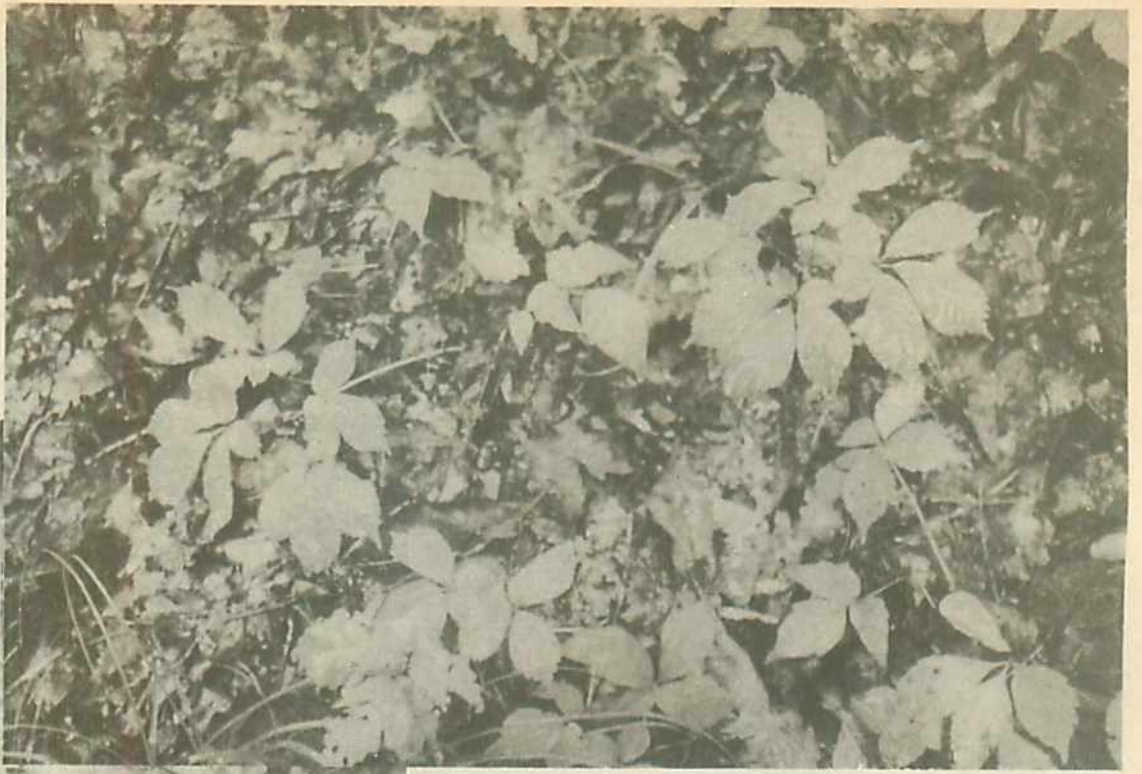
*Queen of the Meadow, Royal Fern*



*Secret Places*



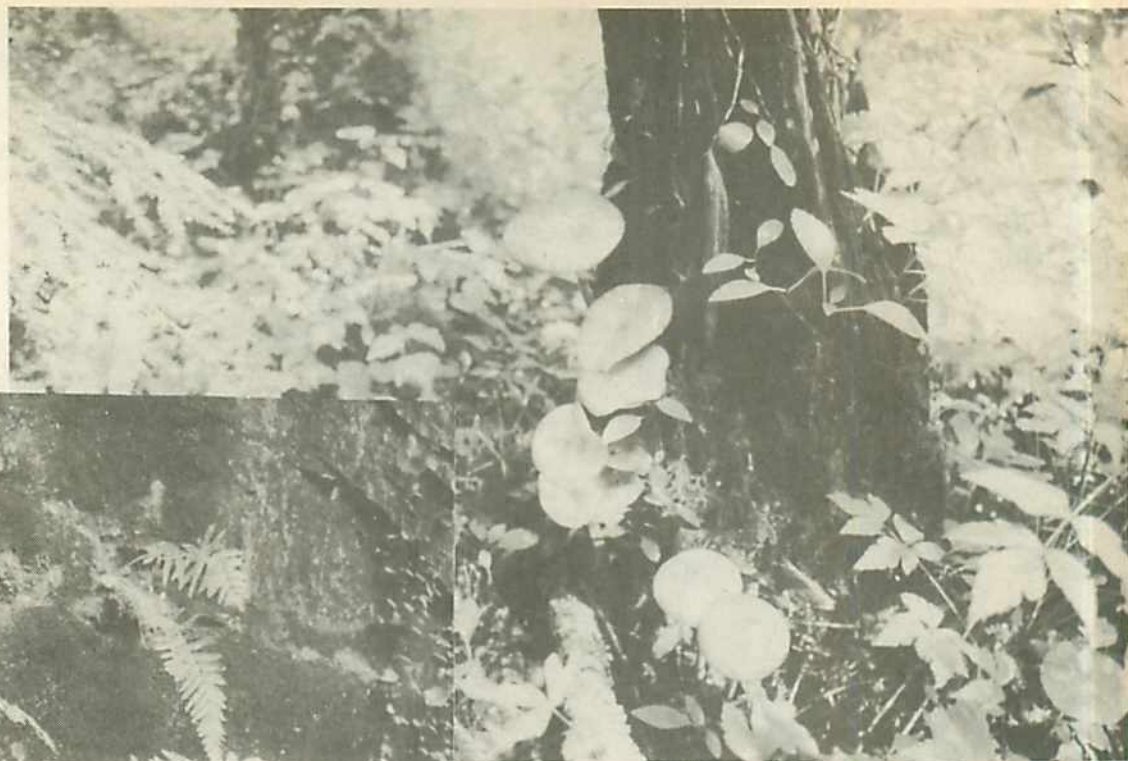
*Ginseng,  
The King Of Herbs*



*Turkey Tails*



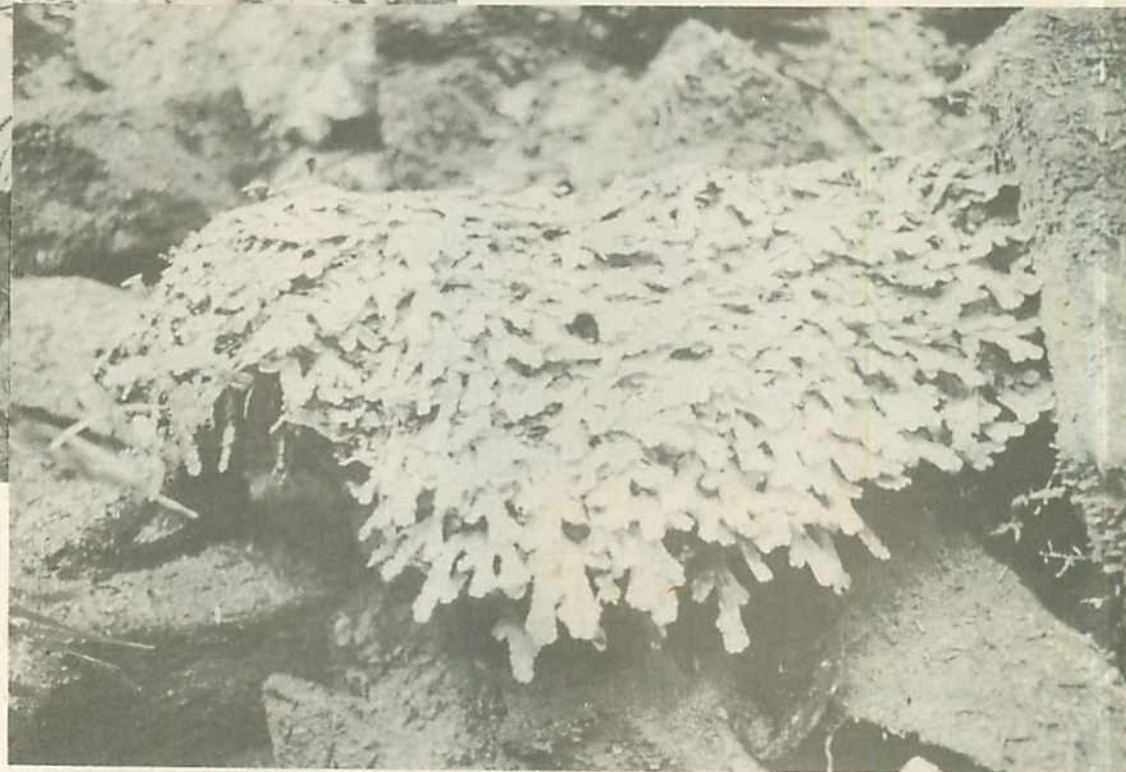
*Don't Know What  
This Is, Do You?*



*Fungi (above)*



*One of 50 species of Ferns (left)*



*Liverworts*

# Hidden Treasures of the Bankhead Watershed



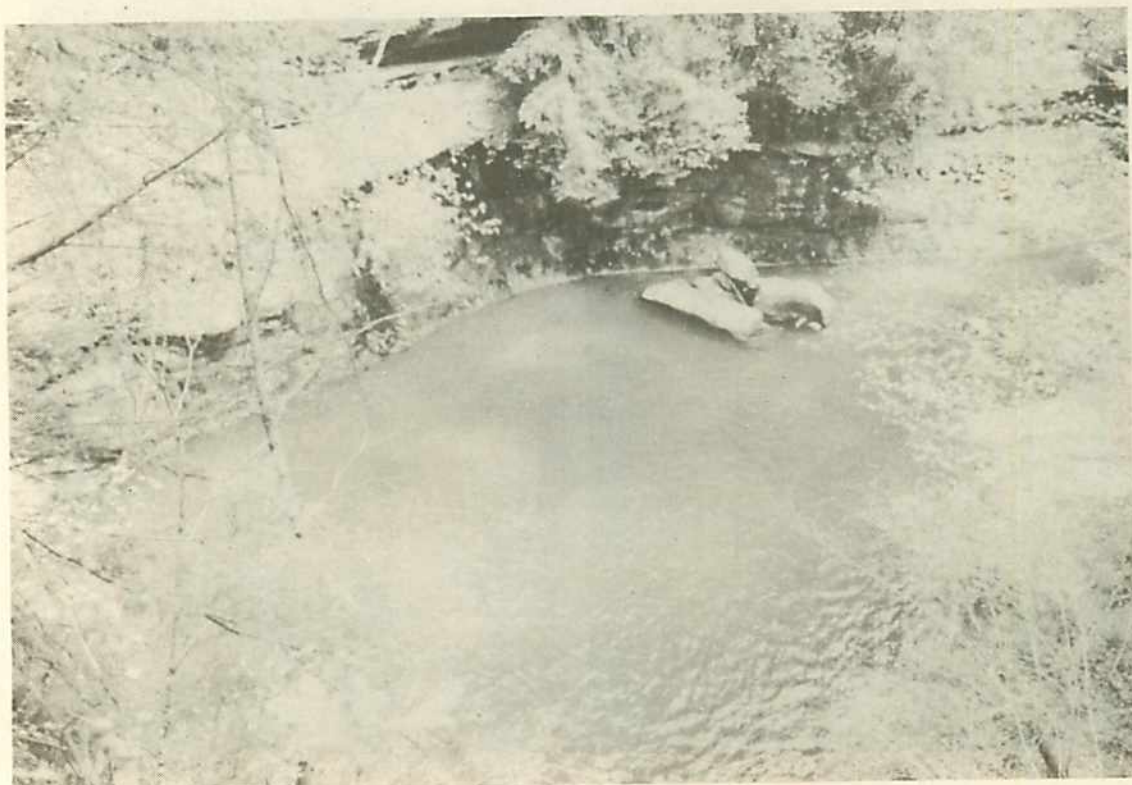
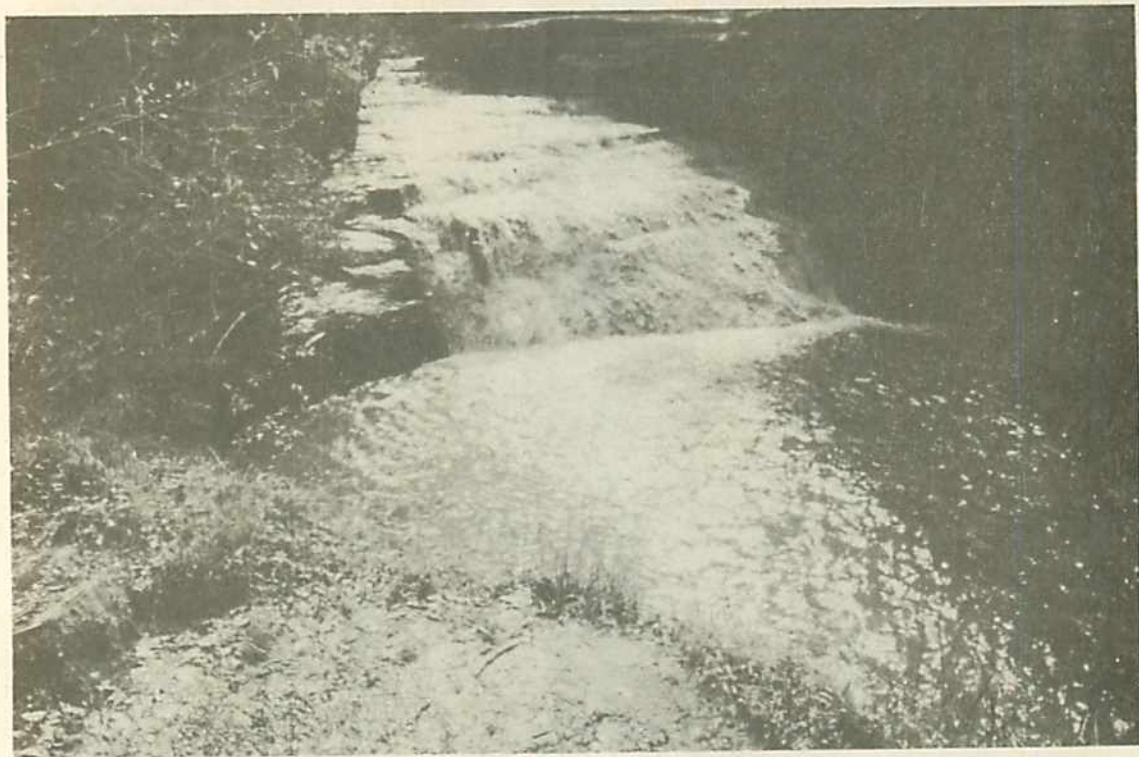
*Photograph by Ronnie White*



*Photograph by Charles Seifried*

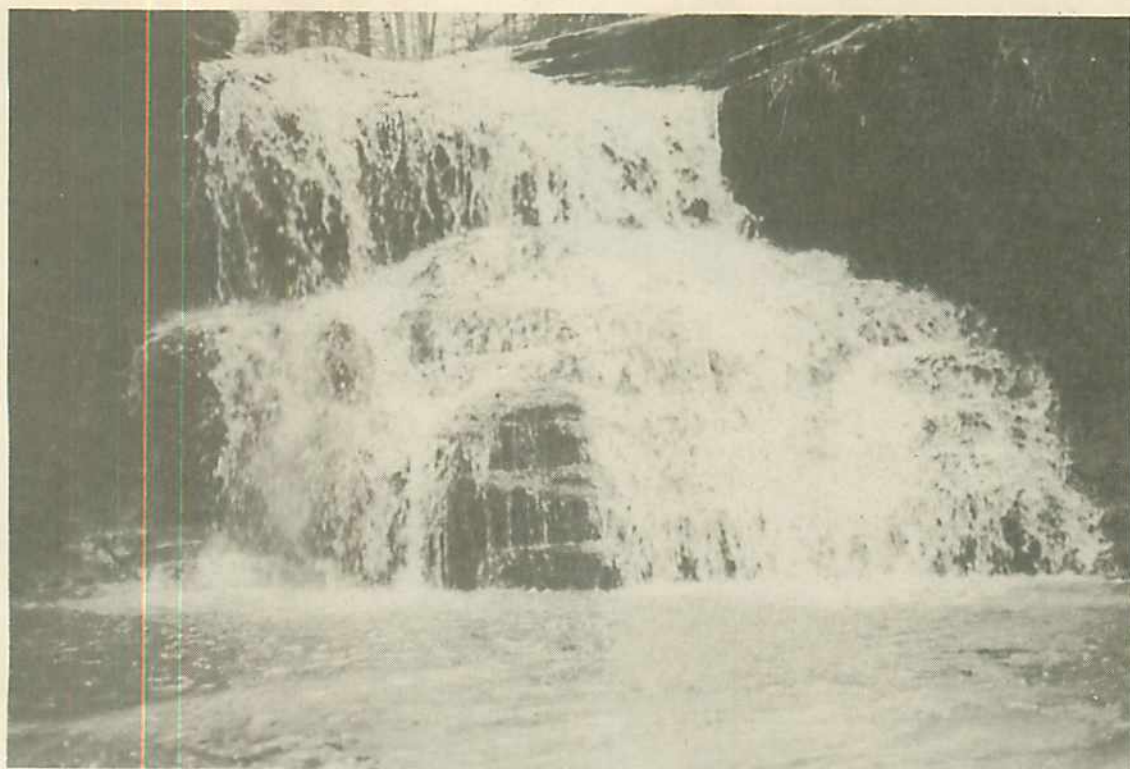
# KINLOCK

The Best Known Falls In the Bankhead



*Below Kinlock*





*Collier Falls — About 18 Feet High*



*Westernmost Falls — Indian Tomb Hollow*



*Parker Cascades by Ronnie White*



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Left: A Natural Bridge (photo by Ronnie White)

Below Left: Clifty Creek Falls (photo by Lamar Marshall)

Below Right: Falls on Hubbard Creek (photo by Ronnie White)

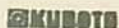


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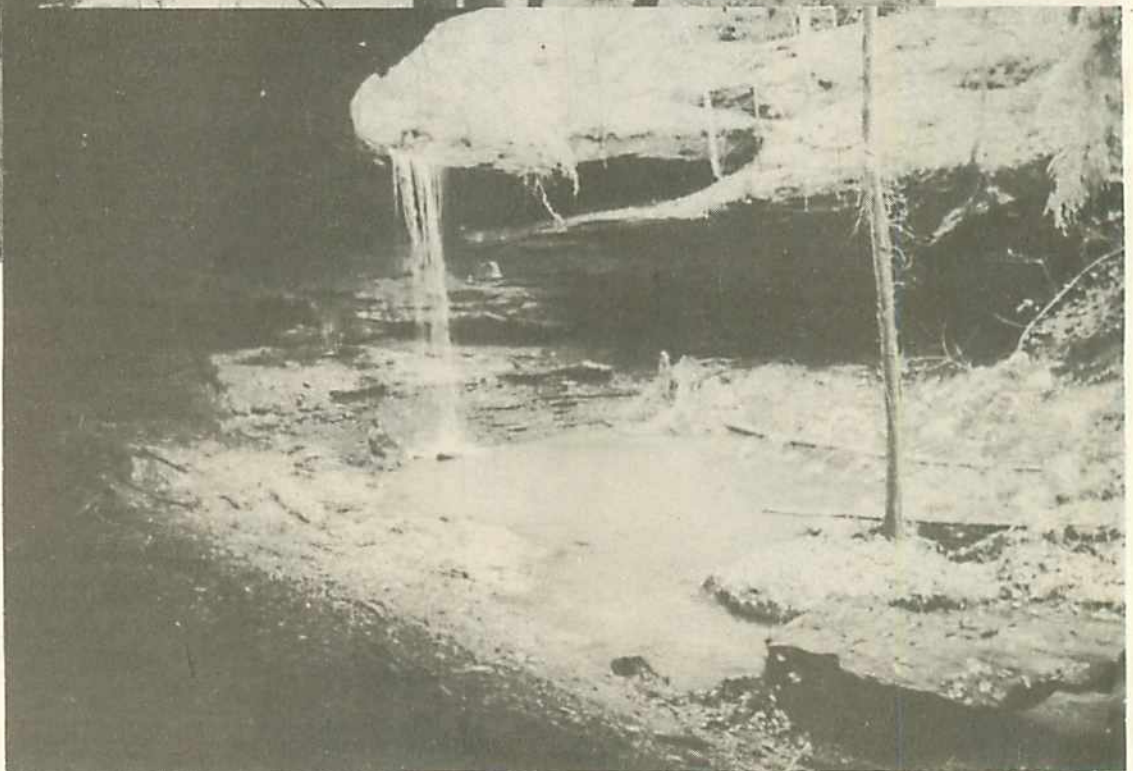
Jim Watson, Jr.  
Mike Patton

*Holmes  
Chapel  
Falls*



*Caney  
Creek  
Falls*

*Coal Mine  
Branch  
Falls*

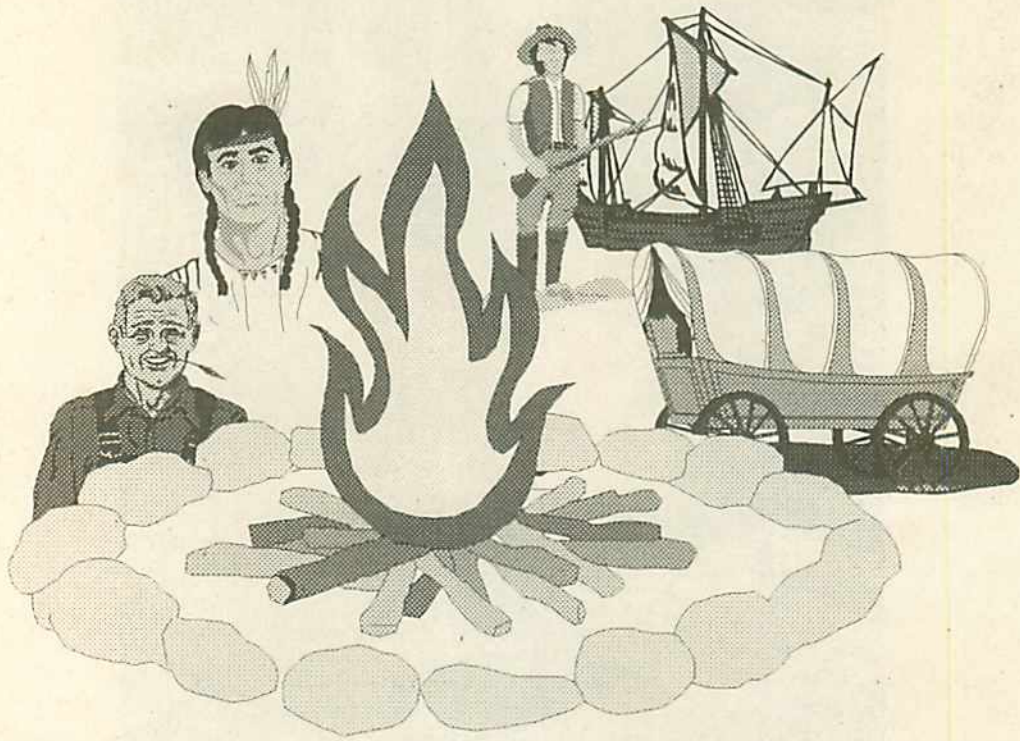


*Lower  
Turkey  
Foot  
Falls*



*Lower Turkey Foot Falls*

# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



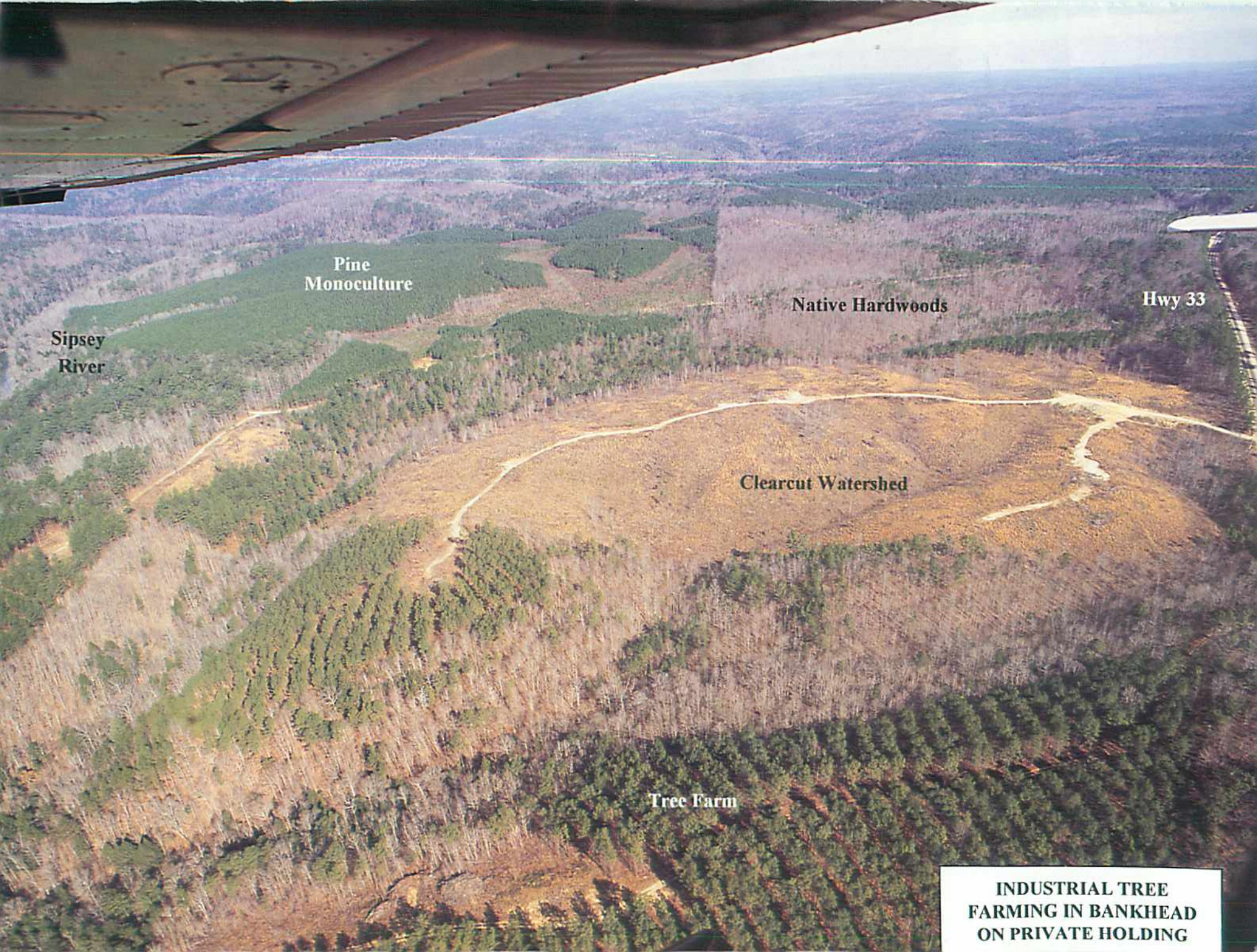
We must ever be true to our Past. This is as important as our Future. If we do not know where-of we came, how can we know what our Future holds? Only in looking back can we find our way.

The ways of our Fathers are just and true ways. Each man our Brother. One who would go the extra mile for you. Are these attributes still valuable?. Now more than ever. Our standards must always be strengthened through insisting that we also be treated fairly. We are the "People." All we ask is to be respected for who we are, and respect for our Past. With this our Future will be bright.

So Be It.

Gilbert D. Edwards

Jan. 28, 1995



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