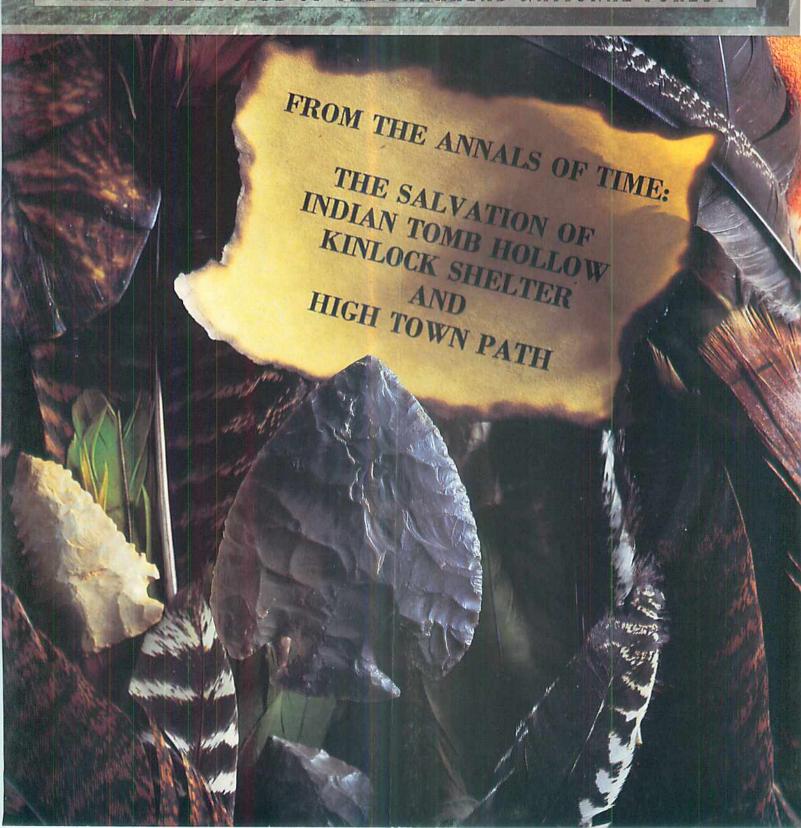
DEC./JAN./FEB. 93

# BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



### "Land and Resource Management Plan"



Lamar Marshall

The Plan by which the National Forests of Alabama are managed is under review beginning this summer. Every ten years the plan will be amended to make adjustments as necessary to rectify any shortcomings. We believe there are serious problems with the plan as it exists today. The public has an opportunity to get involved with the changes. We call on all civic groups, environmental organizations and other concerned citizens to get involved. The US Forest Service has promised to implement new programs that will protect our ecosystems. We expect them

to deliver. This should include the abandonment of evenaged timber management which translates to clearcutting and its variants. There is no way that clearcutting can be construed as pro-ecosystem. It is in fact, the most destructive of all timber harvest methods. It is destined for the trash can as relating to public lands. We will not compromise on this issue.

The people of Alabama have been granted a victory in preservation by the Forest Service under the supervision of John Yancy. Of course I refer to the setting aside of 900 acres in Indian Tomb Hollow, the protected area around Kinlock Rock Shelter and a visual quality zone on the High Town Path. See the article on page 1.

This is proof that the Forest Service can move. Change is coming. The problem is that time is of the essence. We don't have 3 years for the Forest Service to decide that maybe there is too much deforestation in Bankhead. Every year that slips by is a year of 40 or 50 new areas of destruction in our forest.

There are two approaches to the problem here in Bankhead. One, is to push for the total exemption of the Bankhead from the Forest Service destruction by demanding that Congress create a National Park or a National Recreation Area from the forest. If there is little or no change in the future management, this is certainly the route to go. We can keep a Wildlife Management Area for hunting.

Two: we can work to severely limit the areas and methods of timber extraction. The canyons must be exempt from cutting. The blufflines must have protective zones. The habitats of endangered species must be identified and set aside. The present unrealistic timber extraction quota must be reduced. The unique botanical areas must be mapped and protected. The historical and archaeological areas must be mapped and given a designated zone of protection. See the rear cover for a map of the plan.

Lamar Marshall

Printed on recycled paper.

Any cartooned likeness in this magazine is merely wild coincidence or perhaps only a freak of nature.

#### BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

" VISITED BY ALL, DESTROYED BY NONE! "

### THE BANKHEAD MONITOR, INC.

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# Dec./Jan./ Feb. 93 TABLE OF CONTENTS ARTICLE

PXE

AKTICLE	
The Salvation of Indian Tomb Hollow	1
Walking Sipsey Part Six Jim Manasco	3
Putty Leaf Orchid Rickey Butch Walker	5
Yankees Pillage Lawrence County Ed Herring	6
Auburn Studies the Sipsey Wilderness	8
Bankhead Trails	9
Map of New Sipsey Wilderness Trail	10
•	_
Map of part one - Warrior Mountains Trail	11
The Green Team	12
Buzz Williams of AFSEEE Comes To Bankhead	13
The Black Warrior Mountains Rickey Butch Walk	er 14
National Forest News	15
Mysterious Man From Vermont	19
Silver Fox Speaks	20
The Lighter Side of Forestry	21
Biological Comas	22
Borden On Horses - Feeding Dr. Charles Borden	25
Monitor Trading Post	26
Woodcraft - Baking Bannock Vic Southard	29
Around the Campfire	31
1993 New Perspectives	33

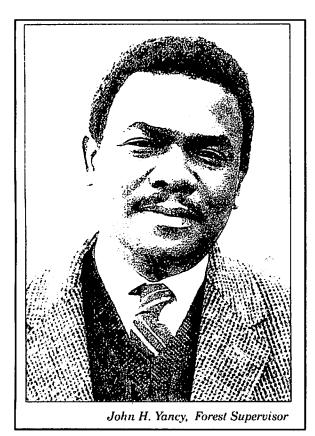
#### ABOUT THE FRONT COVER

A tribute by Charles Seifried to the US Forest Service announcement that Indian Tomb, Kinlock Shelter and High Town Path will be preserved. For a writeup on the photographer of the Bankhead, see the article on page 19.

# **NEWS SPECIAL!**

# FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES PRESERVATION OF INDIAN TOMB - KINLOCK SHELTER - AND HIGH TOWN PATH.

In an announcement that included a couple of surprises, Forest Supervisor John Yancy proved to the people of Alabama that their requests had not fallen onto the deaf ears of government bureaucracy. The public received a long awaited decision on Indian Tomb Hollow. The Blue Clan of the Echota Cherokee is seeking a Cultural District designation for the Hollow which would exempt it from the heavy hand of timber extraction. The Bankhead Monitor has



supported the position of the Blue Clan. The Bankhead Monitor council is represented by members not only of unaffiliated individuals, but is represented by members various civic groups, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Alabama Conservancy, the Bankhead Trail Riders, a bowhunting association, deer and turkey hunters and



A TRIBUTE BY CHARLES SEIFRIED

others. The common goal of such a wide cross section of the public is the preservation of the national forests of Alabama.

Mr. Yancy's announcement is a signal to this group that the Forest Service recognizes the changing primary function of our public lands from primarily a timber extraction resource to a reservoir of important historical places, scenic drives recreational opportunities and most importantly, ecological preservation

#### **SUMMARY OF FS DECISION:**

INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW - Nearly one and a half square miles or 900 acres is being set aside for study by the US Forest Service. During the study

time, there will be no timber cutting or road construction within the boundary of the project. The validation effort will seek to prove the area as either: SACRED or HISTORICAL. Mr Yancy reinforced the hopes of all with the added assurance that should the validation process not support either of these designations, that the FS will seek another form of designation. We believe there is ample evidence to support either.

\$250,000 has been requested by the FS to finance the study. When the field work and other research is completed, the Land and Resource Management Plan will be amended to reflect the new designation. Leader Bobby Gillespie of the Blue Clan believes that the designation should be Cultural District.

KINLOCK SHELTER - The Forest Service is working to have Kinlock Shelter placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Until a long-term decision can be accomplished by the revision of the Forest Land and Management Plan, Yancy has designated a Viewshed surrounding Kinlock Shelter. A viewshed is a visual quality management zone that restricts timber harvesting from the area within a perimeter.

In addition, general overnight camping and the possession of alcoholic beverages will be prohibited. Camping will be allowed only by permit. This will allow the Blue Clan to hold ceremonies within the shelter which is considered a sacred place to them. Kinlock Shelter has received much abuse in the last several months. Some of the most outrageous are the carving of initials and attempted destruction of the petroglyhs. A severe penalty can be imposed by the law for desecration and destruction of this public treasure. If you know of any individuals responsible for injuring this site, contact George Hedges of the US Forest Service in Double Springs.

HIGH TOWN PATH - The High Town Path was recently documented in a new book by Native American historian Rickey Butch Walker. It without a doubt traversed the Bankhead along the Tennessee Divide and served as a path as well as a known boundary between Indian Nations.

The Forest Service has placed 36 miles of roadway in a partial retention zone. This translates to limiting the timber activities along the road in an attempt to enhance the visual quality as well as protect the remnants of the original path which have not been supplanted by the modern Ridge Road and Leola Roads. Fragments of the original path can still be

seen following the curvatures of the ridgetops where the new roads have been straightened out.

Every person interested in Bankhead Forest should obtain a copy of this book. For details on getting yours, see our Bankhead Monitor Trading Post in this issue of the Monitor.

The Indian Tomb Area will be a great asset to all the people of this state. Not only is it rich in Indian history, it is an area rich in botanical resources. Some of the champion trees of the state are located in this hollow.

It will be many years before the great scar of clearcutting grows up enough to once again appear as a forest. But it will be great comfort to know that the remaining acreage will be protected.

Gifford Pinchot, the first Forest Service Chief once said "National Forests exist today because the people want them....the people themselves must make clear how they want them run."

We of the Bankhead Monitor staff wish to personally thank Mr. Yancy and his staff who are making an effort to protect our historic, cultural and sacred sites in the Bankhead. We hope that additional progress can be made in other areas of concern. Certainly of equal importance is the USFS initiative of modifying management practices to protect the ecosystem. I am sure that changes are in the wind.

Lamar Marshall



KINLOCK ROCK SHELTER

# Walking The Sipsey Wilderness: Part 6

by Jim Manasco

Kinlock Is One Of Many Scenic Falls

Kinlock Falls on the Sipsey River is easily found by driving west on Cranal Road. When Cranal dead ends into Kinlock Road, turn right and go to the bridge. You would never know that the falls was there since it cannot be seen from the road, even though it is only 50 feet off the road.

The road is wide enough to provide ample parking just before you cross the bridge. A trail leads down the creek for about 50 yards to an overlook below the falls.

The oddity here is the fish. From the base of the falls to the Bankhead Lake lives a little fish known as the Warrior Darter.

From the top of the falls upstream lives another darter and both of these are new to science. Neither

has yet received a Latin name.

When these two species were introduced to the compilers of Alabama's endangered species list, one said "describing species this rare is like writing their obituary."

One authority is convinced that the current attitudes of Federal Endangered Species Agencies will cause the fish above the falls to vanish before it is described. It requires clean water free of silt to survive and building log roads and cutting the timber will not help it any.

About halfway between the bridge and the falls you will see the old Hubbard's Mill. Here at the falls you are at the head of the Sipsey River Canyon.

The evergreen trees that overhang the falls are Canadian Hemlocks. It is said that these trees seeded the northern forest. The theory is that the ice age



KINLOCK FALLS

killed all of the northern forest and only the trees in the Deep South survived. These trees then seeded the forest back through the original range.

> " THIS WILDERNESS IS TRULY A LAND OF FALLING WATER. NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY FALLS ARE IN IT..."

This wilderness is truly a land of falling water. No one knows how many falls are in it. In Buck Rough, you can see five from one spot. If you walk downstream from Kinlock you can see two.

The smaller falls comes through a rock chute before it drops into the river bed. Standing in front of the smaller one, Kinlock Falls is still in view. Those of you who are interested in Kinlock Rock Shelter will now get to see it. The television program, 13 Country, has filmed the ancient rock carvings. This site is just outside the wilderness boundary at Kinlock Falls. It was a winter sunrise ceremonial site of prehistoric man. A people who were on the verge of developing a written language.

All nature is tuned in fine harmony. You can predict one thing by watching another. Watching the blooms of the dogwoods you know when the suckers will start their up stream run to spawn. Watching the suckers run you know when the folks will come to fish. Smiling faces, fish, and standing on a rock in the middle of nowhere, that is what wilderness is all about.

While the head of Sipsey Canyon is scenic, it is also primitive. The vista will quiet an appetite for natural beauty. But from the little falls on downstream it is a different story. Take heed: there are no trails in this canyon and it is no place for the tenderfoot. The bluffs are high and the ledges are slick and narrow. It is dangerous - one slip and you've had it. To by pass the bluffs you have to bushwack through laurel thickets and that is hard traveling.

" OLD TIMERS SHUNNED THIS PART OF THE AREA... THE ROCKY CRAIGS AND THICKETS ARE THE HOME OF NUMEROUS CANEBRAKE RATTLESNAKES, SOME OF RECORD SIZE. "

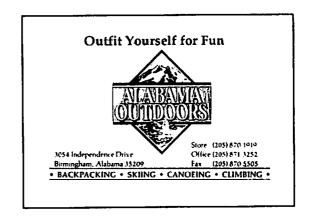
If you have spent any time in the wilderness you may have noticed that the old timers shunned this part of the area, and with good reason. The rocky crags and thickets are the home of numerous canebrake rattlesnakes (velvet tails), some of record size. This area of the wilderness is the roughest and is marked on the map in part 5 with the number 8, Quillan Creek.

I can only recommend that you enjoy the wilderness where it has trails. Rattlesnakes are gentle when compared to other snakes and pose no threat to speak of on a trail. The danger of being bitten comes from stepping on one.

To bushwack this type of terrain you have to watch every step and never drop your guard.



SIDE FALLS JUST BELOW KINLOCK FALLS



# PUTTY LEAF ORCHID GROWS IN BANKHEAD

By Rickey Butch Walker

n High House Hill in William B. Bankhead
National Forest grows a group of beautiful,
rare and unique flowers: putty leaf orchids.
The putty leaf orchid has a single leaf which
appears in the fall and remains somewhat green
during the winter. As spring approaches, the old leaf
begins to fade and by the first of summer the leaf
dries up and dies.

Death is short-lived because a single stem begins to emerge at the spot where the old leaf died. The stem rises about one foot tall and has a whorl of delicate but beautiful flowers.

The accompanying photograph is a single stem of a group of seven putty leaf orchids growing at the base of chimney stones which at what was an old polepen slave cabin.

As if in honor of those who lived in the house and endured the rough slave times prior to the Civil War, the seven putty leaf orchids struggle to survive around the hilltop chimney stones.

Putty leaf orchid roots were used by early Indian people as a readily available source of glue.

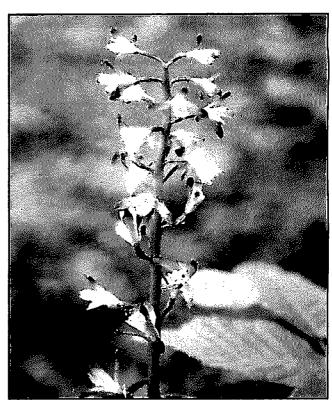
However, I strongly discourage anyone digging up a putty leaf orchid just to test the glue qualities of the rare plant.

At the place where the putty leaf orchids now grow, seven cedar pole-pens lined the ridge of High House Hill just south of the main kitchen area. The cabins were referred to as pole-pens because they were constructed of cedar poles laid on one another to form a single square room.

The kitchen was a few yards north of where the small patch of orchids is growing. On north beyond the large kitchen was the main plantation house. Remnants of the slave cabins, the main kitchen, and the plantation house, all which once belonged to James (Jim Monk) Alexander, are still visible on the high knoll in the mouth of Indian Tomb Hollow. Among the ruins of the old plantation grow the unique putty leaf orchids.

Putty leaf orchids are by no means the only member of the orchid family which is common to the ancient valleys, hardwood ridges, and timeless canyons of Bankhead Forest. Probably some 20 species of orchids are common to Bankhead Forest, but the putty leaf orchid is very special.

Our early Indian ancestors had a close relationship to the plant because of its unusually sticky roots. Now, the old putty leaf orchids on High House Hill are a living reminder of those by-gone days.



**PUTTY LEAF ORCHID** 



# YANKEES PILLAGE LAWRENCE COUNTY

## by Edward Herring

In Ap... 33, the Union Colonel Abel D. Streight set from Tennessee to cut through North Alabama "with all reasonable dispatch, push on to Western Georgia, and cut the railroads which supply the rebel army by way of Chattanooga." On April 10th, Streight and his men embarked on eight steamers on the Cumberland River. On April 19th

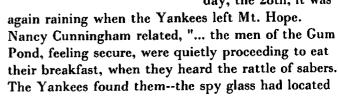
Streight disembarked at Eastport, Mississippi and headed for Tuscumbia. At 5:00 p.m. on the 25th, Streight arrived at Tuscumbia with about 2,000 men and 800 mules. Mules were chosen for this expedition because of the rugged terrain the Union forces expected to encounter, but the mules proved to be a costly mistake as their unruly manner served to constantly slow Streight down. When Streight's presence in North Alabama was discovered, Confederate General Nathanial Bedford Forrest left his encampment at Spring Hill, Tennessee to check the Union advance. Forrest was later joined by Lawrence County native General Philip D. Roddy.

Slowed by rain the night before, Streight reached the tiny community of Mt. Hope, in Lawrence County, by way of Russell-ville, on the evening of April 27th. An alarm went out throughout the area, "Mt. Hope is full of Yankees!" A nephew of Moses W. Cunningham snuck

through the Yankee lines to count their number, returning about midnight reporting several thousand troops.

When the Yankees first approached, the citizens began to hide their valuables because the Yankees would take everything in sight whether they needed it or not. Their idea was to subjugate the South by

burning and destroying everything in sight. Moses Cunningham's wife Nancy, packed a trunk with as many valuables as it could hold and their Negro servant hid it in a hollow log that lay across the creek from their home. Meanwhile, the menfolk in the area had gathered their horses and wagons and all the meat they could carry and headed for Gum Pond, deep in the mountainous forest south of Mt. Hope. It was thought that the Yankees would never think of going there. The Yankees, however, were in dire need of animals. Their mules were proving unreliable and many had stampeded, leaving some of them on foot. The next day, Tuesday, the 28th, it was





DAILY Photo by M.L. Gray)
Michael Schreck painting of Nathan Bedford Forrest

them. Then the mighty rush began to save the horses. Some ran down into the ravine and finally got away; but the Yankees got most of them. Then they chopped up the wagons and piled the meat on them and set them on fire and burned them up. Can we ever forgive them?"

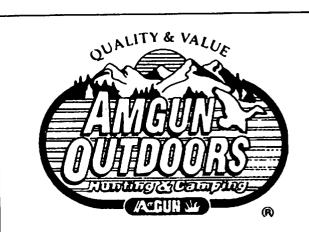
When Colonel Streight left Mt. Hope, he also sent a foraging party down the Byler Road to destroy Major David Hubbard's Mill at Kinlock and to secure grain for his horses and meal for his men. A hastily assembled group of men from Winston, South Lawrence and East Franklin Counties ambushed the raiders near Old Grenada. When the Federals passed through a deep cut in the road, they were met by a hail of bullets from both sides. Many soldiers were killed and the others driven away, short of their objective. The defenders burned the wagons and drove the mules and horses into the woods. The slain Federals were said to be buried by local residents, including Aunt Jenny Brooks, in the Negro cemetery near the Hubbard plantation. Reason Young was a farmer and blacksmith in the

Youngtown community who also ran an inn for stage coaches. Reason's son, Joe, was about twelve years old when one of Streight's raiding parties passed near his father's farm on its way to Moulton. Joe drove their stock into the nearby hills to hide it. Some of their neighbors were not so fortunate. The Yankees went to Reason Young's home and helped themselves to a large quantity of food. The rain had again stopped and, by sunset, Streight had reached Moulton with mounts for all but 50 of his men. He didn't stay long, however. The Federals left Moulton at 1:00 a.m., scouring the country for better mounts. He was now hotly pursued by General Forrest.

At the same time Streight was leaving Moulton, General Forrest was leaving Courtland in a cold drizzling rain with the 4th and 9th Tennessee calvary. Forrest reached Moulton at 11:00 a.m. where he rested his men one hour. Sergeant Richard Randolph Reynolds of the 9th Tennessee calvary recalls, "As we were mounting up to leave Moulton, Clay Pruitt, dog-tired from riding dispatch to General Roddy for three days, rode up to the general (Forrest). He was reeling in the saddle. It was all he could do to stay awake." When Pruitt informed the general he could not ride another step without getting some shuteye, Forrest personally took him over to the house of a man named Terry. Forrest told Terry to let the soldier sleep five hours and then give him a drink of whisky and send him on his way.

"Clay caught up with us just 'fore we ran smack into them Yanks at Day's Gap."

South of Moulton, the Yankees stumbled upon the wagons of fleeing refugees. They seized what they could carry and destroyed the wagons and property of the refugees. While Streight was fleeing Moulton, Union General Dodge was busy raping Tuscumbia. Dodge reported, "...burned all provisions, produce and forage, all mills--destroyed everything" of aid to the enemy. "I took stock of all kinds." Dodge fell back to Corinth, Mississippi, "followed by the entire Negro population of the valley--a picturesque column, much longer than my command." Streight passed through Danville the afternoon of April 29th before stopping to rest at the foot of Day's Gap. At dawn of April 30th began a bloody running fight between Streight and the brilliant Forrest that would end with Streight's surrender on May 3, 1863, at Lawrence, Alabama, just twenty one miles short of his objective, Rome, Georgia. When Streight stopped at Lawrence, Forrest marched his men and artillery 'round and 'round an enormous hill resembling an Indian mound, in full view of the Yankees, giving the appearance fresh troops were arriving. Completely exhausted and thinking he was vastly outnumbered, Colonel Streight and his 1,800 men surrendered to General Forrest who had less than 500 men and two cannon.



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# AUBURN UNIVERSITY RESEARCHES: THE SIPSEY WILDERNESS

The U.S.Forest Service and Auburn University are cooperating on a research project to assess the use and impacts of users on wilderness areas in Alabama. This research will be used in Wilderness

Areas with respect to both resource protection and visitor satisfaction.

This research is being conducted under the concept of Limits of Acceptable Change which is a procedure for evaluating the resource base for its capacity to sustain use. In wilderness, the use is for recreational and research purposes, since no commercial or mechanized activity is permitted.

Overall, the objectives are:

- 1. Survey visitors to the wilderness and determine impacts on such visits.
- 2. Estimate total current recreational use of Alabama wilderness.
- 3. Establish base line data on current social and physical conditions in the wilderness.
- 4. Establish base line data on recreational use and monitor changes in such use and impacts of use over time.
- 5. Estimate the costs and benefits of maintaining wilderness use within alternative levels of acceptable change.

To carry out these objectives, actual physical measurements are being taken of all camping areas, trails, and other impact areas. In addition, visitors to the wilderness are being interviewed to determine their use patterns (experiences) and levels of satisfaction with the resource and their experiences in the wilderness. Socio-economic data are also being gathered to develop profiles of wilderness users.

All data will be summarized to estimate current use, impacts, and the levels of use which are acceptable for resource conservation. Alternative strategies to disperse use, reduce impacts, and manage the wilderness resources will be developed for consideration by the U.S.Forest Service in long-term resource management.

When you visit the Sipsey Wilderness, you are liable to be approached by a man with a handful of survey forms. He's a nice guy. Help out with the project. If you are interviewed, it is important to be as objective and truthful as possible. An accurate assimilation of facts are essential to gain a true picture of human impact on the Wilderness.



VIC SOUTHARD

Vic Southard is a native of North Carolina. He currently lives near Hatton with his wife Carolyn.

He is 43 years old and working as a Research Assistant to Auburn University under a grant from the US Forest Service.

I did a little interviewing myself with Vic.

TBM "Vic, a lot of people are suspicious of interviews. They are wondering what the purpose of this study is really all about. What do you tell them?" VIC "I explain to them that I'm here to find out how the Sipsey Wilderness is being used by visitors so we can measure the balance between the use of the wilderness and the impact of that use on the wilderness."

TBM "How many people do you estimate are using the wilderness at this point in time?"

VIC "I figure that from fall to the beginning of severe weather is around 150 to 200 persons per weekend. After that, the type of user changes. There are the hunters and more hard-core outdoorsmen."

TBM " How long will it take Auburn and the USFS to complete the study?"

VIC "This segment of the study ends in April, 93, but the survey itself has been going on for about 5 years. Changes probably won't be implemented for about 3 to 5 years down the road."

I believe some interesting facts will come from the study. For instance, the average campsite is 400 sq. ft. For every trail two feet wide and 4 miles long, about one acre of land is used.

There are around 180 to 200 known campsites in the Sipsey Wilderness that appear to be used by visitors. The average day user hikes in one and a half miles while overnighters usually hike in five miles.

## **NEW SIPSEY WILD. TRAIL**

The Forest Service proposes construction of approximately 4 miles of hiking trail in the Sipsey Wilderness of the Bankhead. The proposed trail location is east of Braziel Creek in Sections 20, 29, and 32, T8S, R8W.

Three miles of this trail falls within the Warrior Mountains Trail Proposal. The Forest Service must have been reading our minds.

See the Bee Branch Quadrangle on page 10 for the location of the new Sipsey trail.

# WALKING THE WARRIOR MTNS TRAIL.

We'll begin a description of the proposed trail with this issue. Remember, there is no official trail as of yet. However, anyone is free to walk on the public lands that I describe. We'll begin at the east trailhead. Turn

south off of Leola Road (FS 249) at the first turn east of Center Church. This will be FS Road 249S. About 3/4 mile down this road, if you look close, a log road will turn off to the right. You will pass under power lines before you get there. Find a place to park without blocking either road. This log road will descend to the west into Freeman Hollow. At the intersection with Freeman Creek, just go downstream to the falls which make the canyonhead.

This first section of the trans-Bankhead trail begins on the easternmost edge of public lands within the purchase boundary. Although a few outlying parcels of private land are on this map, the trail avoids the private property with nice buffer zones, and eventually winds into the remoter parts of Bankhead: the wild Capsey Canyon. It is noted for it's beautiful bluffs and stream. If there were a way to get a canoe in, the creek becomes large enough to float at the junction of Turkey Creek and Capsey.

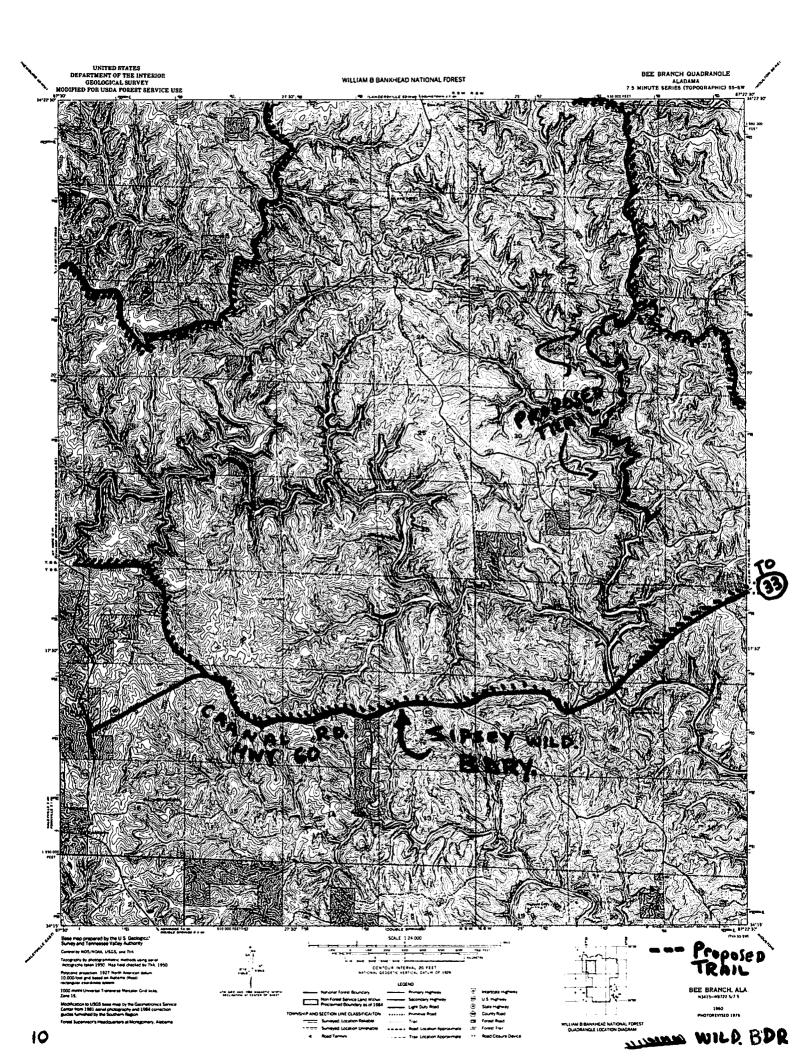
Capsey originates up in Tar Springs Hollow, Bobcat Hollow and Chitwood Hollows that fall out of the south slopes of the High Town Path (Forest Service Road 249) and Highway 43. Freeman Hollow and Turkey Creeks are feeders of Capsey also.

The ridgetop road FS 249S has been converted to pines. The valleys and canyons are called "hardwood stringers" by the Forest Service. They harbor the last of the biggest and greatest trees in the forest. The woods of these canyons are mostly open and deciduous. Speckled around will be some pines in their glory time of life. They are huge and majestic. Compare these beauties to the ridgetop clones.

Many great old beeches grow along these canyons. Some are carved with the glyphs of the Indians and some bear the initials of your great grandparents. This section will cover about 10 miles from FS 249S to FS 266 bridge. That is a long walk in woods without trails. A pretty good 4 mile walk can be made out of this if you leave Capsey Creek and intersect the Lower Capsey Motorway (FS 269). Leave one car as far as you can easily travel on 269 below Smith Cemetery. Shuttle back around to the trailhead in a second car. Follow the map on page 11. The south end of FS 269 is a disaster. There are massive clearcuts across Section 5 and 33.

A little skill with a compass and map might be required in order to get out via FS 269.

Many clubs and people are sending letters of endorsement for a East West Bankhead trail. Tom Bevill has promised to talk with the Forest Service. If you would like to send a letter of endorsement or make an inquiry on the trail, contact the Warrior Mountains Trail Committee Chairman. Write of call Greg Preston at 409 Gordon Drive, Rogers Apt. 6, Moulton Al. 35650. Ph. (205) 974-5207





#### FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

# THE GREEN TEAM

By Evan Cutler and Kevin Pearce - Countryside, Dec. 91.

A handful of foresters are trying to save America's last few trees -- from our own officials.

John Mumma, a reluctant whistle-blower, is out of a job. Until recently, the self-professed career civil servant was responsible for the U. S. Forest Service's northern region. For 28 years he worked in national forests he loves, at the expense, he says, of quite a few birthdays and Mother's Day celebrations. He's not what you'd call a radical.

Mumma was allegedly pressured into quitting the service for refusing to violate the law - specifically, the 1976 National Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act. Following these environmental measures at their most minimal levels, he was able to reach only 85 % of the timber harvest target for his area this year.

The increasing demand to fulfill unrealistic--and ecologically damaging--quotas has created a conflict for professionals like John Mumma, who are bound by law to protect the woodlands. The trained scientists and foresters have become frustrated that their advice is shunned by superiors, some of whom are actually former timber-industry executives. A scant 15% of timber produced in the U.S. comes from public lands, but national forests are coveted by the timber industry because harvesting them is cheaper. According to one legislative specialist, taxpayers spend \$350 million each year subsidizing roads, maps and studies to make logging of public lands easier for private companies. Although 95% of U.S. native forests have already been leveled, targets for the remaining parcels have increased steadily since the 1950s.

In 1989, one forester, Jeff DeBonis, decided he'd had enough and expressed his opposition through the Forest Service's electronic mail system. He was reprimanded. DeBonis quickly learned that there was no available outlet for dissenting opinion from within the agency--workers usually kept quiet, fearing reprisal. So he founded the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE), now some 5,000 member strong. He has since quit the Forest Service and works full-time for

AFSEEE, publishing a monthly newsletter, Inner Voice, and promoting free speech among government resource managers.

As membership in AFSEEE grows, more forestry employees are publicly advocating ecologically sound management, rejecting what DeBonis calls the old-school philosophy, that all natural resources exist to be harvested. Live trees are more valuable than wood chips and boards anyway, the advocates say: According to a Forest Service report, total revenues from forest-related tourism, hunting and recreation can be expected to reach \$122 billion over the next four decades, compared to \$13 billion to be generated by logging of public lands. More importantly, says DeBonis, these forests are essential for controlling the greenhouse effect, as well as preventing soil erosion and flooding, and providing habitat for many endangered species.

And according to Tim Hermach, an associate of DeBonis and president of the nonprofit conservation-oriented Native Forest Council, the concept of lost jobs in logging communities is a political boundoggle: Oregon lost 15% of its logging jobs between 1977 and 1987, he says, despite a 10% increase in wood taken from national forests. Automation is the real cause of job losses. Meanwhile, many of these trees don't even reach the mill. They're shipped off as raw logs to Asia.

The responsibility for overlogging national forests does not lie with timber companies, activists say, but with government officials. "The administration has conducted a deliberate and systematic violation of the law in order to continue reaching unrealistic timber targets," says DeBonis. U.S. district Judge William L. Dwyer, who has heard numerous cases against the Forest Service, apparently agrees. In issuing an injunction this year against timber sales in 17 national forests in the West, he stated that excessive logging is "not the doing of scientist, foresters, rangers and others at the working levels of these agencies. It reflects decisions made by higher authorities in the executive branch..."

For more information about preserving national forests, contact the Native Forest Council, P.O.Box 2171, Eugene, OR 97402

# THE GREEN TEAM COMES TO BANKHEAD BUZZ WILLIAMS OF AFSEEE

From the Decatur Daily - 11/12/92 - Forestry group says change way national forests are managed, by Barry H. Sublet

Moulton - In the past 3 1/2 years, more than 8 square miles have been clear-cut from Bankhead National Forest under the direction of the U.S.Forest Service, an environmental group says.

The chain saws still are buzzing. Next year, for example, about 58 new cuts are planned for the 281-square-mile forest.

But not all forestry service workers are happy with this logging. These people, members of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE), hope to turn the Forest Service in a new direction.

Their goal is to redefine land management objectives, protect and promote the free-speech rights of government employees and make native ecosystems the blueprint for reconstructing damaged lands and restoring resources.

Visiting Bankhead on Wednesday, AFSEEE Southeastern Program Coordinator Buzz Williams said his organization, in a nutshell, opposes the way national forests are being managed. Based in Eugene, Orc., the group has more than 10,000 members nationwide. Most are forest service employees who realize the importance of saving forest land, Williams said. Attempts to contact Bankhead District Ranger James Ramey were unsuccessful. John Yancy, supervisor of national forests in Alabama, has said it's not easy to manage forests to everyone's wishes. "If I could manage for recreation only, I could go home and sleep good every night," he said. "But we have special interests coming at us from timber, wildlife, preservation, from use of land for hunting, range, all different uses. What we try to do is listen to all the different opinions, put that together with all the scientific information gathered over the years. then make the best determination based on laws Congress has mandated for us."

Williams said AFSEEE "provides a forum for Forest Service employees who know the agency must change," Williams said. "We're about ethics. It is the duty of Forest Service employees to speak out about how our forests are being managed. We don't need to be cutting in our national forests at all and we are the guardian of the blueprint to restore forests."

Of the timber harvested annually in the United States, about 14% comes from national forests. About 49% comes from other private lands, about 31% from forest industry lands and 7% from other public lands. Less than 5% of the nation's primary forest has been left intact, and only 1% is in the Southeast.



**BUZZ WILLIAMS** 

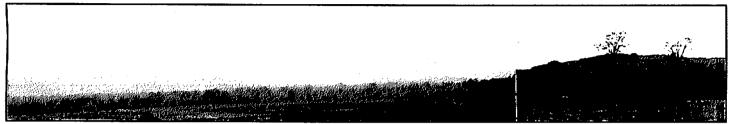
Williams said the U.S. Forest Service, when organized, was mandated to provide some timber, primarily to protect watersheds. But he added, "the original intent was for that timber to be a byproduct. That's not the case anymore." So why does the forest service manage lands the way it does?

"Until 1945 or 1950, the forest service was a custodial agency for protected forests. After World War II, during the baby boom generation, the timber industry saw it would have to meet baby boom needs," Williams said. "About that time, the forest service was captured by the timber industry and it's been downhill from there."

"We're overcutting and we're overconsuming," he added. cont'd on page 18

# THE BLACK WARRIOR MOUNTAINS

by Rickey Butch Walker



THE BLACK WARRIOR MOUNTAINS RISE SOUTH OF THE FLAT TENNESSEE VALLEY

# Lhe 'Sacred Land' of our ancestors will not be forgotten.

For thousands of years, the people in the Moulton Valley have looked south to see a beautiful range of mountains rising from the flat middle plain in the southern heartland of Lawrence County. The eastwest range has represented many things to modern man, but probably was more important and sacred to our red ancestors than any European immigrants. By the time of Desoto's visit to our state in 1540, our Muscogee people recognized the range of mountains as a tribal and geographic boundary along the Continental Divide which began separating the Atlantic's coastal waters from those of the Mississippi drainage in Maine and continued through the upper Tombigbee watershed in the western portion of Alabama and Northern Mississippi. Probably the most accurate and appropriate name for the portion of this vast chain of mountains is derived from Muscogee people, who lived along the streams hundreds of years before white people came to our country.

The Creek word "taskagu" or "taska" and the Choctaw word "tashka," refer to the English translation of "warrior," with the Muscogee word "lusa" meaning "black."

We know from reading Alabama history, Desoto encountered a giant of a man known as "Chief Tuscaloosa" or the Black Warrior; therefore, the name was here long before the first European settlers claimed the lands in the southern portion of our country.

The stream forming south from the mountains of Lawrence County also became known, in early days, as the Tucaloosa River. On a French map dated March, 1733, Baron De Crenay, Commandant of the post of Mobile, identified the southern drainage from our mountains as the Tuscaloosa River.

On other early maps, the main river, which drains south, was also called the Tuscaloosa. Later in 1814, a map of Alabama identified the river draining south from our county as the Black Warrior River. In 1829, a frontiersman and famous rifle maker by the name of John Bull engraved two of his masterpeices from the Warrior Mountains. According to information provided by Dan Wallace one of the exceptional rifle is inscribed on a silver platelet into the barrel: "John Bull for David Smith, Warrior Mountain, 1829."

The inscription on the silver cheekpeice is as the following:

"Ann"

This gun is named Charlotte, from hills and mountains Came, made to delight the heart of man, with Joy, the labouring Swain, And from the sportsmen of the day, Victorious bear the prife,

"Away"

According to Rayford Hyatt, David Smith entered land near Indian Tomb Hollow on September 12, 1819, and married Charlotte Ann Havens, who was the daughter of James Havens. According to the Havens family legend, provided by Spencer Waters, James Havens was buried next to his Indian friends on the side of Warrior Mountain where the magnolia blooms in the spring.

Colonel Edmonds Saunders, in his book "Early Settlers of Alabama" published in 1899, refers to our county's southern highlands as the "Warrior

continued on page 18

# NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

# THE POISONING OF POPLAR LOG COVE

A few years ago the residents of Poplar Log Cove protested the clearcuts that were proposed by the USFS on the ridges that ring the beautiful hollow. With legal fees, a monstrous pile of paperwork and several thousand yards of red tape from the USFS, the mountains were clearcut.

Now, the FEDSs have returned with plans to saturate the clearcut mountains with chemical poisons to kill any hardwoods that might infringe on the absolute reign of their pampered pet pines that are to be soon planted.

The residents gathered a petition with 53 names on it opposing any chemicals which will surely seep into their wells.

District Ranger James Ramey said "They are making a mountain out of a mole hill." He said the chemical Hexazinone, manufactured by DuPont, poses no threat.

"We get a lot of emotional appeal and usually those who are the most emotional are the ones who are the least informed," he said.

"Rumors that have circulated about the herbicide contaminating ground water are false. There is no scientific evidence to prove that Hexazinone is a health hazard. It doesn't move from the site. We won't apply the recommended maximum dose. We'll use the least possible amount to get the job done," Ramey said.

According to DuPont, the chemical should not be applied where runoff is likely to occur or it can come into direct contact with water. Hexazinone causes irreversible eye damage and should not be

breathed, the label indicates. It should not expose humans directly or through drift during application. Areas being treated should be evacuated.

Lamar Marshall, the editor of the Bankhead Monitor, says that the USFS has no right to force any citizen in the United States to ingest even one part per trillion of any of their "safe" poisons. " The simple fact is, that Americans have the right to be herbicide free. If the Rangers who prescribe this poison want to partake of this substance in their water, food or air, then more power to them. But don't treat the people of the forest as hostages who have no choice. Whether or not the chemical would cause bodily harm is not the real issue here. The anxiety and stress inflicted on these residents through worry for their and their children's health will cause real harm," Marshall said.

This opens a new can of worms:

Black Warrior Management Area The DuPont label also warns against allowing the grazing of domestic animals in a treated area for 30 days. As this chemical is proposed on 42 sites in Bankhead covering thousands of acres, who keeps the deer out of this poison? This is a study that Wildlife biologist Ron Eakes in the Black Warrior Management Area should investigate. The Bankhead Forest has the most pitiful herd of deer in the state of Alabama. It mysteriously began to die off about the time the Forest Service began using poisons on the forest years ago. In fact, of 22 Wildlife Management Areas in Alabama, the Black

Warrior was rated 21st in the 1991-92 hunting season. This is ridiculous as the 95,850 acre WMA is the largest in the state. The facts support the views of other biologists who contend that the severe alteration of the Bankhead through it's conversion to a tree farm has upset the ecosystem so that it is able to support only a few deer. The Alabama Dept. of Conservation should bring in an outside team of investigators to find the truth. Something is rotten in Denmark.

On a brighter note, the Forest Service must be commended:

# CLEARCUTTING REDUCED IN BANKHEAD - GOOD NEWS.

Mr. James Ramey announced that clearcutting has been reduced in the Bankhead. "I didn't believe it until I saw it" said a member of the Bankhead Monitor. But it is true. Several clearcuts that were proposed on Montgomery Creek, Freeman Hollow and other places have been dropped.

The most significant are those located on High House Hill near Indian Tomb Hollow and on the Leola Road which is the High Town Path.

Clearcuts are especially controversial along the streams which are usually the habitat of endangered species and along roadways which are viewed by the public.

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM
DOUBLE SPRINGS - Another
good practice is being discussed for
possible implementation in the
Bankhead Forest. A sore spot
with many visitors is the cutting of
trees right up to the blufflines.

From the gorgeous Brushy gorge, many blufflines are bare where timber harvest has stripped trees to the line. A three hundred foot setback would be a major improvement.

# NATIONAL PARKS ARE DETERIORATING DUE TO FISCAL NEGLECT.

America's national park system is deteriorating due to funds for maintenance. The roads, trails and buildings are going down hill.

Last year the facilities saw more than 268 million visitors, a 16% increase from the year before, and the crowds are expected to grow to 360 million annually by the turn of the century.

## FOREVER WILD

Alabama voters overwhelmingly approved the Forever Wild bill and the advisory board has been appointed. Using moneys that come in from the interest of Alabama's offshore oil leases, the state will be able to purchase an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 acres of land during a 20 year period. The land will be available for state parks, wildlife management areas, picnic areas, and other uses, including hiking, camping, hunting and nature observation.

# FOREST HEALTH: It takes more than living trees to make a forest.

What's as bad as depriving a forest of living trees? Depriving it of dead trees.

So say forest ecologists working in the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, who are finding that decomposing trees are more crucial to the health of our forests and ourselves than was previously believed. And their findings, as detailed by The New York Times' Jane E. Brody, put the lie to the popular view that an unharvested tree is a wasted tree.

Instead, say scientists Chris Maser and James M. Trappe, that tree provides "an accumulation of life and nutrients that is greater than the sum of its original parts."
In their technical review for the U.S. Forest Service, "The Seen and Unseen World of The Fallen Tree", Maser and Trappe outline the benefits decaying trees provide, including the following:

- They store carbon, reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and slowing warming. They also store water to sustain growing trees during droughts.
- They discourage erosion an create nutrient-rich pools in streams where fish spawn and develop.
- They serve as nurseries where new plant life gets started.
- They provide food for a succession of microbes, plants and animals that replenish the soil as they break down the wood.

They do these things, that is, where they are not cut and removed. And where they are, forests lose their ability to cope with stress.

That has happened in Germany, where air pollution and acid rain are killing forests that have been "intensively managed" by methods copied in this country, Trappe, of Oregon State University, says. The issue facing the United States as it sets policy for its remaining forests, then, is not as confined as the timber industry and its cheerleaders would have us believe.

"The spotted owl debate is not a case of owls versus people,"
Trappe says. "It's a question of whether we want the diversity of organisms that the natural forest provides, or in its place a monoculture in which many organisms will disappear, not just the spotted owl."

And that's just the short-term prospect. In the long term, the monoculture itself, unsustained by the nutrients fallen trees provide, may be imperiled.

The question confronting the Northwest, the country and the planet is no longer whether we can see the forest for the trees. It is whether we can see the forest in the trees. - J.F. <u>Lewiston Tribune</u> (<u>Lewiston ID</u>) Mar. 31, 1992

## BIODIVERSITY LOSS CAUSES AN ECOSYSTEM TO UN-RAVEL.

The spotted owl focused public attention on old-growth ecosystems west of the Cascades. Bark beetles, spruce budworms, and tussock moths are doing the same for the forests of the east.

More that one million acres of national forest in the Blue Mountains of Oregon have been damaged or killed by insects and disease. Another million acres of state and private forests also have been weakened. Six years of drought, a century's worth of underbrush buildup and a huge volume of decaying trees have increased the risk of catastrophic forest fires.

The biological and economic threat is so great that Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts has applied for an emergency disaster declaration from the US Dept. of Agriculture and more funding for forest restoration.

While Oregon waits for relief, biologists and private landowners are searching for ways to turn a severely damaged ecosystem around. "We are paying the price for past sins," says Alan Kanaskie, a specialist in tree diseases in the Oregon Department of forestry.

"It took half a century for these forests to shift out of balance. It'll take another half century to bring them back.

In their pristine state, the Blue Mountains were dominated by ponderosa pines and larch with shade tolerant firs growing in the understory. Periodic light fires maintained species diversity by killing young firs but leaving mature pines unharmed. Decades of aggressive fire suppression coupled with overcutting of old-growth pines gradually altered the makeup of this ecosystem. Firs, highly vulnerable to certain pests, proliferated in areas once dominated by pine. The unforeseen species shift now threatens long-term harvest levels, wildlife habitat and recreational uses. Spraying pests and fighting fires will treat immediate symptoms and may halt short-term destruction. Achieving long-term health making forests resistant to natural calamities such as disease and fire will be far more difficult. Scientists simply don't know how to assist in that transformation, though one thing is clear practices that accelerated the forests decline have to stop. The U.S. Forest Service has begun controlled burning programs to thin out fir stands and the underbrush. And recent Forest Service studies have called for the protection of the remaining ponderosa pines to maintain the gene pool and for use as seed sources. Yet even with these new policies, complete recovery will not be possible in out lifetimes.

Millions of dying trees are proof of how little we know about the interconnections between plants and other organisms. Past forest management, based on the best knowledge of the time, contributed to the unraveling of an ecosystem. The harm became noticeable only

when entire mountainsides were ravaged.

The communities now fighting the preservation of spotted owl habitat should look to the Blue Mountains as a cautionary tale. The consequences of biodiversity loss are starkly visible all over northeastern Oregon.

Seattle Times (Seattle, Wa.) July 29, 92

# EFFECTS OF TIMBER HARVESTING ON SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN SALAMANDERS

by James Petranka, Matthew Eldridge and Katherine Haley. Dept. of Biology, Univ. of NC, Ashville, NC, 28804-3299

" We compared the species richness and abundance of salamanders on six recent clearcuts (10 yr. old) with that of 34 mature forest stands (50 yr. old) in southern Appalachian forest in western North Carolina. Catches of salamanders from plots in mature forest stands were about five times higher than those of recent clearcuts. Almost all species and major taxonomic groups of salamanders were adversely affected by timber removal. Mean number of species collected per plot was about twice as great in mature forest stands compared to clearcuts. Analyses of stand age versus salamander catch indicate that 50 - 70 years are required for populations to return to predisturbance levels following cutting.

We estimated that clearcutting in US National Forest in western North Carolina results in a loss of nearly 14 million salamanders annually. It also is chronically reducing regional populations by more than a quarter of a billion salamanders below that which could be sustained if mature forest were not cut."

#### DO APPALACHIAN HERBA-CEOUS UNDERSTORIES EVER RECOVER FROM CLEAR-CUTTING?

by David Cameron Duffy and Albert J. Meier, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. Published in Conservation Biology, Vol. 6, No. 2, June 1992.

"Life history characteristics of many herbaceous understory plants suggest that such species recover slowly from major perturbations such as clearcutting. We examined herbaceous cover and richness in the understories of nine primary (old-growth) forest in the southern Appalachian Mountains and of nine comparable secondary forests ranging in age from 45 to 87 years since clearcutting. Neither cover nor richness increased with age in the secondary forest. This suggests three possibilities:

- (1) that recovery is so slow or variable among sites that 87 years is insufficient time to detect it:
- (2) that such forest will never recover to match remnant primary forest because climatic conditions are different today than when the forest became established;
- (3) that herbaceous plants colonize pit and mound microtopography caused by the death of trees, so that recovery must await the growth, death, and decomposition of the trees of the secondary forest.

Whatever the mechanism, herbaceous understory communities in the mixed mesophytic forest of the Appalachians appear unlikely to recover within the present planned logging cycles of 40 - 150 years, suggesting a future loss of diversity of understory herbaceous plants."

### SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR SKILLS

"We would never have to cut another tree on forest land if we would find ways to conserve. This massive cutting is a crime against nature."

The forest service has developed a 50-year plan to clear-cut forests and start over on what is called an "even-aged, even-sized forest." Hardwoods will be significantly reduced and turned into pine monocultures because pines produce faster than hardwoods, Williams said.

Lamar Marshall, publisher and editor of The Bankhead Monitor Inc., a non-profit, educational corporation in Moulton that opposes clear-cutting, said parts of Bankhead forest affected by clear-cutting were replanted in pines. "They're now pine jungles," he said.

AFSEEE opposes pine mono-cultures because it reduces the variety of forest life. "Whenever you change, you wipe out certain species," Williams said. Marshall said Bankhead was once called a game paradise. But recently, deer had to be imported into the forest, largely because of clear-cutting. Williams added that poor management practices adversely affect many other smaller elements of wildlife. A new policy regarding clear-cutting of forest land is not expected to help, Williams said. He said because of a strong timber lobby, President Bush's vow to reduce clear-cutting by 70% will not allow a clean switch to save the variety of life in forests. "What President Bush said was a smoke screen. Incredible pressure by the timber lobby will never allow for the forest service to switch." Marshall encourages Alabamians to join the effort by calling (503) 484-2692 or writing AFSEEE, P.O.Box 11615, Eugene, Ore., 97440

# BLACK WARRIOR MOUNTAINS cont'd from page 14

Mountains." Later in 1918, when the government began organizing our mountains into a national forest, the area was called the Black Warrior. Today the state wildlife management area is still known as the Black Warrior.

It is a shame that our forest had a name that could be traced back for over 400 years and has been changed to honor a white politician.

However with the Indian pride that has grown strong in Lawrence county, our mountains will never take second place and will always be remembered as the Sacred Land of our ancestors -- Warrior Mountains.

The Monitor personnel will begin offering classes on various outdoor skills by appointment. Instruction includes map reading and orientation as relating to crosscountry travel. Also, we teach plant identification, survival skills such as shelter, firebuilding and woodcraft. The class costs are \$20 per person up to four people and \$15 per person for groups of four to ten. This covers registration for instruction. Also included is a free tour or hike in the vast Bankhead National Forest. Classes and tours are custom tailored. Proceeds will go towards promoting the work of the Bankhead Monitor. Contact Lamar Marshall at (205)-974-6166

# THE EYE IN THE SKY: VOLUNTEER HELICOPTER NEEDED

The monitor team would like to fly over the forest at a low altitude in order to photograph and produce a composite set of aerial photos for a presentation to congressmen in Washington. If you would like to help in this endeaver, contact us.

Cheap is good; but not if the chopper is a clunker. Remember, you can't parachute out that low to the ground. I'm sure there are some foresters who will volunteer to fly us; but no thanks. I know what you have in mind.

### BORDEN/ HORSES cont'd from page 25

When grazing is not available, it is best to feed a good quality hay and supplement with grain or commercial sweet feed as needed. Well fertilized alfalfa may be all that your horse needs. During heavy exercise, cold weather or if you use a lower quality hay you may very well need supplements for increased energy requirements.

Generally grain is the cheapest way to increase the energy content of your ration. Grains and supplements should, however, comprise no more than 50% of the horses' diet. More than 50% increases the risk of colic, diarrhea, founder, dangerously rapid growth of foals, hyperness and azoturia or tying up syndrome.

Cold weather and increased work do not necessitate a greater percentage of protein or minerals but more energy is needed. Corn averages 10% protein which is a good average for adult horses and is high in carbohydrates--an excellent energy source. Contrary to conventional wisdom, corn is not a "hot" feed! It produces less heat during metabolism than oats and many other so called "cold" feeds. Corn will not cause your horse to overheat! It is an excellent grain to use when extra energy is needed for warmth during cold weather or heavy exercise.

# THE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE WILDS

# **CHARLES SEIFRIED -**

## THE MYSTERIOUS MAN FROM VERMONT

The magnificent hidden beauties of the Bankhead National Forest are being sought out and captured on film by one of the most renowned photographers in America. How did the Bankhead Monitor come about him? He didn't like my cover work. I don't know why anyone

would not like my photocopied stumps. But I didn't look a gift horse in the mouth. Charlie appeared out of nowhere and volunteered to help in any way he could to stop the destruction of precious public treasures in the Bankhead. I had no idea the quality of work that he did. I knew something was wrong when I saw a picture of him and George Bush side by side. When he went to photograph Governor Hunt and

the Band " Ala-

bama" I figured

he had to be bet-

CHARLES SEIFRIED

ter than average. Now I know that there are few photographers anywhere that are in his class. His photography has been described as better than most found in National Geographic Magazine. The last cover of the Monitor won the prestigious Addy award. Just look at the cover on this issue and you'll understand why.

But who is he and where did he come from? He is not a native of this part of the world. He is here because of love. His wife Brenda, is a Lawrence County native.

His home is Vermont, but his childhood was spent in such faraway places as the Philippines,

China and England. His primary clien-

tele is business, but his particular love is nature. The Bankhead is called the land of a thousand waterfalls. Charlie has found no shortage of subject matter in the National Forest. There are 100 foot bluffs and a myriad of plants and animals to stalk with the array of cameras that he uses. The collection of photographs that he has accumulated would fill a volume. Perhaps one day he will put together a book on the Bankhead.

Charlie has traveled all over the world and especially the National Parks of the United States and Canada. Still, he is amazed at the relatively unknown beauty that lies hidden among the clearcutting in the Black Warrior Mountains of Lawrence and Winston Counties. We are extremely lucky to have his artistic talent with us.

To the Council of The Inner Circle of Twelve:

Enclosed please find a small essay of my personal observations in my old age (70).

I, for one, do not wish to become bitter, and/or hateful in a nasty and horrible situation or condition of this country. It would be very easy to do so.

Our timberlands are being devoured at a tremendous rate, with no regard for the future.

# THE REAL PEOPLE

## **ANI-YUNWYAH**

by Bob Ridge (Silver Fox)

The son of the Cherokee Chieftain (Ka-nun-dacla-ga) once wrote the following statement:

"Cherokee blood, if not destroyed, will win its courses in [human] beings, who will read that their ancestors became civilized under the frowns of misfortune, and the cause of their enemies." John Ridge, 1830.

The sad part of the above quote is the very fact that the American Indian was raped of his lands by beings with the Holy Writ in one hand and a gun in the other. These invading beings tried to convince the Indian that they were right and he was indeed a heathen, a lesser class than they, while they devoured his beautiful lands and animals.

Today, in this year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred Ninety-three, there are more white beings of Cherokee blood than there are those of pure bloods. I am sure of one thing; the Cherokee did not make it come about by his will.

Let each of us, for a few minutes analyze this situation: Abraham came into being approximately 1950/-2000 years B.C., plus or minus. Thus, according to Biblical history at a time when all mankind in their hemisphere worshipped man made idols, he, Abraham, chose to believe in a living, existing God. So began the history and the beginnings of the Holy Writ, and eventually the nation of Israel and Our Lord, Y Shua Beny Hovah, (Jesus Son of God). Indeed, now we know for a fact that the North American Indians, for the most part, always believed in a Spiritual Living God Creator, even before Abraham came into being. He, the Indian, worshipped this Living Creator Spirit as their God. There is absolutely no factual proof of any idol worship in their societies. The totem-poles of the North West Nations are often called idols by the less informed, when actually they were records of family ties, and often marked their lands and trails.

The Natural Beauty, as a Virgin in all her glory, and the great abundance of wild game, with all the natural resources untapped and in place was the true testimony of the wealth and religion in the love for the Creator. The American Indian was very conservative and a preserver of nature and of the lands that were entrusted to him. He still is, for the most part.

The North American Indian of the Eastern seaboard of this country was not, and never was a heathen. He was far in advance of the white invaders as a civilized being, and charity was inbred in him, as early history bears out these facts. He was, in fact, an innocent child that became defiled with the heathenism if the invading armies, and the diabolical greed and hate of these invaders, which came to rape him.

We can now see, through the eyes of other races, but with the heart of our American Indian Ancestors the truth and judgement of the Creator. The national debt of an unbelievable amount is the wealth owed the American Indian, and by the laws and standards these invaders taught us, this is the amount stolen from the trustees of these lands and must be repaid in full or it is sin and will be treated as such! The American Indian will prevail; but for now he will know our Lord the Great Spirit has almost destroyed this planet the Earth to bring him the Good News. Carry His Word in both hands, proclaiming His Truths. Reclaim this land in Peace as He has taught us, pray for those who became lost in the sins and errors and corruptness of these invaders.

Remember this fact." The Lord Always Keeps The Best Until Last."

Keep HIM in your hearts. Your day is yet to be!

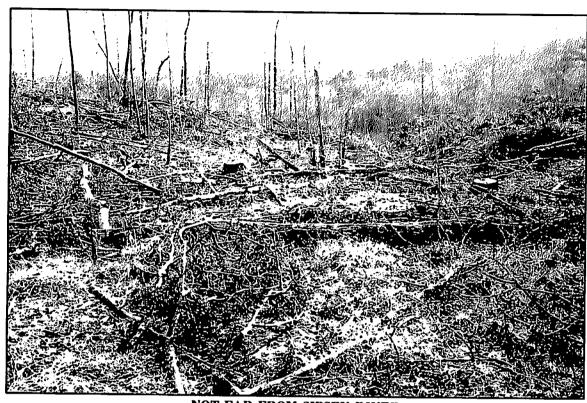
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# THE LIGHTER SIDE OF FORESTRY



# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? BIOLOGICAL COMAS



NOT FAR FROM SIPSEY RIVER

This is a picture of a Non-Ecosystem Management practice on your public land in the Bankhead. Notice that it is clearcut. You probably can't tell from where you are that it was a hardwood ridge that is being converted to a pine plantation. Now what were all those hardwoods doing growing on a pine site? Shame on them. But don't worry. The USFS is setting nature straight. They cut all those nasty old trees down and will replace them with beautiful, green, fast growing pine trees that any pine beetle would be proud to bore into. Who needs hardwoods anyway?

Notice that the ground is plowed and churned up. It is compacted in places and the dark humus is gone. The shady canopy is gone. The ultraviolet rays from the sun are tanning that ground to a coppertone hue. Where have all the flowers gone? Gone to graveyards every one. When will they ever learn? XXXXX tons of silt have gone to the

streambeds so the endangered mussels will have an underwater beach to play on. Oh, I forgot. Silt kills the mussels. But this is all within the limits of acceptable change.

Soon this picture will undergo the USFS Site Preparation process. This means that the Forest Service will prepare the mountain top for the agricultural crop of the pine farmers. How do they do this? Quite simple. They must first put all this acreage into a Biological Coma.

The remaining undesirable trees must be cut down or killed. Dogwood, sourwood, wild plums, oaks, poplars, and those ugly red maples must be destroyed. Why? Because they don't sell well and they stunt the growth of pines.

That's why they subsidize timber sales and give away public trees.

This entire picture and many more pictures that I didn't put beside this one must be saturated with powerful chemical herbicides that will kill the land

and prevent the natural hardwoods from coming back and shading out the pet pine trees. What do I mean kill the land? Let me explain how it works. A boomjet sprayer on a tractor will spray thousands of gallons of poison ( such as hexazinone ) over forty-two cutover areas in the next several months. This poison will throw thousands of acres into Biological Comas. That is, it will kill not only the young hardwoods that are attempting to regenerate,

# PUTTING THE HEX ON THE FOREST. THE MIRACLE DRUG: HEXAZINONE HERBICIDE

but wildflowers and the entire life of the forest floor. Salamanders, toads, turtles, birds, rabbits, wood mice, chipmunks, beneficial insects, and soil microorganisms.

The small creatures that are not killed outright will die an agonizing death from blindness which occurs from hexizinone contact. It will kill the native wild-flowers, the vines, the shrubs, the azaelas, the hardwoods and many, many more species that make up dozens of links of the chain of life in the forest. The soil will become a sterile, dead, eroded and burnt non-organic dirt that will grow only one thing well: pines.

The soil is in a biological coma that is both unatural and damaged.

Will it ever return to normal? It would take hundreds of years. But that will never happen. The Forest Service plans to cut these pines in 70 year rotations or less. Then the process will start all over again.

An ecological holocaust has taken place and no honest forester anywhere can deny it. It has simply been standard operating procedure for a long time. This will be changed with the New Forestry that is coming.

An army of trained environmental assassins have been turned out by respected schools over the last 50 years. Many of these people, in their ignorance, have been systematically killing the native forest piece by piece. These same schools are now recognizing the errors of the past. They are beginning to teach environmental forestry that has been rewritten in the light of modern science.

We are not blaming anyone. We are only pleading with those in the forestry business to revise the out-

dated management policies and to protect our ecosystems.

# CONSERVATIONIST OR PRESERVATIONIST?

We are conservationists, not preservationists! This is the worn out cliche of the past. This is the justification of those foresters who support the current policy of mass conversion of public lands to tree farms. It is, in fact, a broken crutch. In the real world, there can be no conservation without first preservation. Conservation is in todays use a term that means the sustained use of natural resources. It means to harvest the surplus of a resource, if there is a surplus and if there is no damage, in the harvest process, to the earth.

In other words, it should be based on the sound principal of drawing the interest off of a sum of money in the bank. The principal is not spent or damaged.

This is not the philosophy that pervades the US Forest Service management practices when taking care of our national forests. They are destroying the

# THEY ARE KILLING THE GOOSE THAT LAYED THE GOLDEN FOREST.

principal. They are killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Our natural, native forest is a proven. It is, in it's natural state and entirety, a living organism. It is a living, functioning fragile machine. The perfect balance must not be knocked out of kilter. In the reality of ecology, it cannot be improved by transformation to a farm.

The photograph at the beginning of this article shows only a tiny part of the destroyed ridgetop. Imagine it a hundred times bigger, then multiply it by 42 times and you will begin to realize the magnitude of the 1992 timber extraction damage wrought in the Bankhead. Then multiply that by the last 5 years and you have over 200 biological comas that from the air look like smallpox on our beloved Black Warrior Mountains. They call this "improvement." I call it baloney. I have examined these poisoned, biological coma zones.( Note the "cide". Genocide, suicide, pesticide, and herbicide.)

Improvement is defined by the forest industry as altering the species composition and/or growth rate of the forest for maximum dollars at a harvest time. Under this philosophy, all endangered species within an area could vanish and not even be missed. This

improvement, therefore, means " to force the land to artificially produce an artificial level of saleable fiber from an artificial environment." The actual health of, and state of the ecosystem may or may not be a factor of consideration.

Today, the maximum rate of return on public lands has proven to be outdoor recreation. I contend that true improvement in Bankhead will be the healing process of nature as it destroys the artificial pine plantations and replaces them with the forests that people will pay to see.

# THE MYTH OF THE SECONDARY FOREST

The opponents of the preservation of forests today often use the excuse that the old-growth forests are basically gone and that the acreage in question is just a secondary forest. They point out that it has been cut at least once already, so no more damage will occur this time around than did the first cutting. Their scientific prescription: "Regenerate the forest by clearcutting. Transform it into an evenaged tree farm." I contend that this is a radical, new type of management that has never been implemented on much of what the Forest Service calls "secondary forest.

There are three basic descendants of the original prehistoric natural and native forest here in the Bankhead.

The first descendant type is the remnant of the primary forest known as old-growth. In the Bankhead, there is very little acreage of primary forest left. Only a few patches in the most inaccessible canyons. The Bee Branch area is one example. There are, however, single, surviving old-growth trees scattered throughout much of the Bankhead. The native plant populations within these areas are basically the same today as 1000 years ago unless outside factors have affected them. It is possible that climatic conditions as well as the man-caused changes in the surrounding stands have altered the ecology of these areas. In the eastern United States, less than 1% of the original forest remains. If this percentage is typical, them we can assume that the Bankhead has less than 1% of it's primary forest.

Those areas of the forest that are typed as secondary must be subdivided into at least two types, depending on the harvest method that was used to take them from primary to secondary.

Type A secondary forest is characterized as having regenerated from either the completely cleared pastures and fields of the nineteenth century settlers, or

from the evenaged, clearcutting methods introduced into Bankhead in the 1960's by the US Forest Service. These could be subdivided even farther but it is not necessary at this time. The pasture/cultivation regeneration of course wiped clean all native forest bio-diversity. New forest ecosystems must begin from scratch.

The clearcut method eliminates many native species due to the removal of the forest canopy. The ultraviolet radiation of the sun, increased heat, reduced moisture, reduced soil life, etc., severely retard the native diversity. Other factors including herbicides and PH change from the introduction of coniferous monocultures also negatively alter the native bio-diversity. Deciduous stand conversion has reduced over 100 square miles of the native Bankhead forest into a lower biological denominator. It is estimated that 50 to 60 % of the Bankhead would fall into this category.

Secondary forest type B. This is the forest type that mainstream foresters don't talk about. This forest type is actually the closest thing left to the original. It is characterized as having never experienced a non-canopy condition. Although most of the old-growth trees were removed over a period of time, they were extracted one by one selectively. Some areas were highgraded with only the most valuable trees taken. But still the forest remains unevenaged and diverse.

As the canopy has never been completely destroyed, the maximum number of native plants and animals were minimumly altered.

The methods of tree removal began with mules snaking the logs out, allowing basic plant colonies to remain undiminished to this day. Since World War Two, the logging machinery has evolved into giant, land-damaging equipment.

Type B secondary forest probably makes up 40 to 50% of the Bankhead. If the evenaged plan to clear-cut all general forest stands is allowed to continue, the native bio-diversity of this area is doomed.

Lamar Marshall



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# **BORDEN ON HORSES**

# HORSE CARE - FEEDING

by Dr. Charles Borden



Dr. Charles Borden

Horses, over thousands of years of evolution, have become adapted to survive and thrive on grasses, legumes and shrubs. These comprise a wide range of plants that vary geographically as well as in quality and availability on a seasonal basis. Under free range grazing conditions these many plants have provided a varied diet adequate for the success of the species.

Normally as horses graze they take a few bites and move on. This grazing pattern helps to ensure a varied diet as well as minimizing parasite infestation from feces. Horses tend to graze for 10-12 hours daily with each grazing period lasting 2-3 hours. Less activity occurs during early morning hours. Horses, unlike cows, have only one small stomach requiring small meals and frequent feeding. With its relatively inefficient digestive system a horse can starve on feed perfectly adequate for a cow. Salt and water should always be available free choice.

A good feeding program will provide a high quality, nutritionally balanced and palatable ration. To ensure adequate consumption without the hazards of over consumption proper amounts must be offered at least twice a day and often more. Research has shown that varying feeding times by as much as thirty minutes from normal can decrease nutrient digestion by as much as 25%. Therefore, when you feed may be almost as important as what you feed.

Studies on young horses indicate that heavy feeding of energy supplements and protein to promote rapid growth can be counterproductive. Excess carbohydrate may cause thyroid dysfunction resulting in malformation of leg and joint cartilage resulting in early lameness. Excess protein has essentially a neutral effect on the growing horse with the only noted effect being a slight decrease in energy utilization and needless extra expense for the owner. Protein deficiency can result in stunted growth. While supplements may speed growth to adulthood, final adult size is not increased beyond what an adequate diet would achieve.

Good pasture is surely the most important aspect of a good diet. A well fertilized grass and legume pasture on soils of good mineral content can provide a nutritious, palatable, well-balanced ration. Land availability and cold weather often necessitate alternatives to pasture.

continued on page 18

# BANKHEAD TRADING POST

# MAPS ♠ BOOKS ♠ POSTERS ♠ VIDEOS ♠ PHOTOGRAPHY

### **COLLECTORS EDITIONS** OF THE BANKHEAD MONITOR

### THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE STATE -ISSUE No. 1 Fall 91

(PHOTOCOPY, AS WAS THE ORIGINAL)

- ♦ Alabama Chainsaw Massacre Indian Tomb Hollow
- ♦ Our Vanishing Old-growth Hardwoods
- ♦ Bankhead Plants/Trees
- ♦ Forestspeak Part 1

#### ISSUE No. 2 Dec./Jan. 91/92

- ♦ Bankhead Gets Death Sentence
- ♦ Clearcut Case Against Clearcutting
- ♦ Bankhead Plants Bloodroot Beech Drops
- Bears and the Bankhead
- ♦ A Bankhead National Park
- ♦ Hemlocks Redwoods of the Bankhead
- ♦ Guide to Scenic Clearcuts
- ♦ Forestspeak Part two
- ♦ How the Indians Walked
- ♦ Wilderness Shelter
- Adventures in the Bankhead

#### ISSUE No. 3 Feb/Mar 92

#### Black/white Cover Soogahoagdee Falls by Charles Siefried

- ♦ National Recreation Area
- ♦ Canoeing Our Wild and Scenic Sipsey
- ♦ The Forest Killers
- ♦ Bald Eagle In the Bankhead
- ♦ Walking the Sipsey Part 1 by Jim Mansaco
- ♦ Early Settlers
- ♦ The Second Battle of Indian Tomb Hollow
- ♦ National Forest News
- ♦ The Herb Doctor of Shinbone Ridge
- ♦ Borden on Horses
- ♦ Guide To Scenic Clearcuts
- ♦ Forestspeak Part 3
- ♦ Woodcraft and Indian Lore
- ♦ People Speak
- ♦ Around the Campfire

### ISSUE No. 4 April/May 92

#### Color Cover Caney Creek Falls by Charles Seifried

- ♦ South Caney Creek Canyon and Falls
- ♦ It's Gone the Red Cockaded Woodpecker
- ♦ The Forest Killers
- ♦ What the Indians Were Doing Hidden Away in Bankhead
- ♦ Arborglyphs
- ♦ Byler Oldest State Road
- ♦ Walking Sipsey Part Two

- ♦ Call For Congressional Investigation
- ♦ Borden on Horses
- ♦ Guide to Scenic Clearcuts
- ♦ Forestspeak Part 4
- ♦ Woodcraft and Indian Lore
- ♦ Centerfold Map Indian Tomb Hollow
- ♦ The Indian Children Speak

#### ISSUE No. 5 June/July 92

### Color Cover Phantom Face Bluff by Charles Siefried

- Confederate Herbs Part I ♦ Medicine Man
- ♦ National Treasure Brushy Creek
- ♦ Walking The Sipsey
- Wolves in the Bankhead
- ♦ A Forester Speaks
- ♦ Dictionary of the Outdoors
- ♦ Nature's Last Laugh Pine Reetles
- ♦ Centerfold Map Brushy Creek Canyon
- ♦ Bankhead Caves Clearcut!
- ♦ The Rare Yellow Magnolia
- ♦ A Holy Alliance
- ♦ The Tree Racists
- ♦ Borden On Horses
- ♦ Woodcraft Make cord from the land
- Part 5 ♦ Forestspeak

## ISSUE No. 6 Aug/Sept. 92

#### Color Cover Collier Creek Falls by Charles Seifried

- ♦ Forest Service Promises Change with Ecosystem Management
- ♦ Cats of the Bankhead Black Painters, Cougars and Other Varmints
- ♦ Canoeing Sipsey Part 2 by John Foshee
- ♦ National Forest News
- ♦ Man Killed Chasing A Bear by Ed Herring
- ♦ Centerfold Map · High Town Path
- ♦ The Sacred Fire Than Burns In Our Veins by Terra Manasco
- ♦ Confederate Herbs
- ♦ Walking Sipsey Part 4 Jim Manasco ♦ Trackers in the Bankhead
- ♦ Indian Myths by Rickey Roberts
- ♦ High Town Path by Rickey Butch Walker

#### ISSUE No. 7 Oct/Nov 92

#### Fall Colors of Bankhead Leaves Color Cover by Charles Seifried

- ♦ Walking Sipsey Part 5 by Jim Manasco
- ♦ Osprey, The Fish Bird Returns Walker
- ♦ Forestspeak Part 6
- ♦ Alternatives For Bankhead Horseback Management
- ♦ The British Come To Bankhead
- Rickey Roberts
- ♦ George Mayhall of Haleyville
- ♦ The People Speak
- ♦ The Proposed Warrior Mountains Trail
- ♦ Centerfold Map Draft of Warrior Mtns Trail
- ♦ Conditioning Your Horse Borden

- ♦ State of Art Silvaculture 1962
- ♦ Destruction of Alabama Wilderness
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Rickey Butch Walker is an outspoken native of the Bankhead Forest who regularly writes a column for the Moulton Advertizer: Bankhead Back Trails. He is of Native American descent and a superb historian and outdoorsman. High Town Path is chock full of photos of the



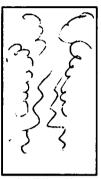
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# WOODCRAFT

## Bannock - A Trailmaster's Treat!

by Vic Southard

This treat is for someone who is planning a lot of hiking, cooking out over the campfire (and enjoys it), and likes to travel light and without waste. The pioneers used it as a major food item when crossing the country, more modern indians use it in the northern continental areas for hearty warm meals cooked on frozen tundra, and I use it for the very high energy content and the "stick to your bones" effect that it has on extended trips either in canoe, hiking, or long travel vacations where a lot of our meals will be cooked out.

Even in our age of dieting and calorie counting, when someone goes out hiking or camping, they are going to burn up many, many times the calories that they would in their normal work-a-day routine, so the added calories in this are used up in warming you as well as providing you a filling, tasty meal and a lot of energy. Finally, it is lightweight and can be used as a batter for fish or meat, or for pancakes, or fresh baked trail bread, corn bread, or if you like, even short cakes or dumplings, or how about biscuits, etc.

Bannock, in the true sense of the word, is a dry, unleavened Jewish dough. However, in our modern day it is more commonly leavened with "self rising flour" or "baking powder". Among it's more commonly aliases are "trail dough", "Missouri mix", "Indian bread" and among the eastern Canadian Indian tribes "Packer's powder".

Here's the recipe:

1 lb. self-rising flour (about 2 cups)

3 tblspns baking powder

1/2 tspn salt

l tblspn sugar

3 cups powdered milk

Some people enjoy the use of oil to grease the pan, as I do, but rather than get into a squabble over carrying extras, let me share simply that I like bacon for breakfast, and while it is suggested that it be kept cool, my longer trips find my bacon in a plastic bag outside of my pack, where the cooler mountain air can circulate around the bag, or on warmer trips the ziplock bag holding my bacon is

immersed in water, and rarely does the bacon last more than 4 days because of my diet. Half or more of bacon is saturated fat, which does my greasing of my cooking pan, my knife, some of my tools, even fishbait (fishing flies), and of course, my breakfast meat. Not much of the fat really makes it directly into my tummy!

With this arrangement, for any type of pastry or bread that I desire I only need to adjust the amount of water that I add.

Incidentally, trailbread is the primary reason that I carry a deep sided cast iron skillet. The cast iron, unlike aluminum, will hold heat like a rock. I make up the batter as a dough, plop it into the bacon greased skillet and set in over the coals of the fire until it begins to stiffen and grow (about 10-15 minutes), then I lift it off of the fire and lean it against a log, rock, or even a mound of dirt near the coal bed and have a cup of coffee. In about 25-30 minutes I have a very hot bread bun which I tear apart as a "sop" to go with my coffee, or natural tea. Just like fresh warm bread out of the over with a glass of milk just prior to bed.

In using it, experience is the best teacher, and unlike the "canned" trail foods, this one comes with loose change out of the store.

Useful ways to use!

l cup bannock...1/3 cup water In a bowl, pour the bannock into a pile with an indention in the top center of the pile. Pour your water (cold) into this slowly and mix until it becomes a sticky ball. Add additional bannock, rolling it around in the bowl until the stickiness ceases against your hand and the bowl. This "doughball" is perfect for a loaf of bread. You merely rub a piece of bacon fat against the inside of the bowl and place it near (not on) the coals of the fire. Leave it for a while and watch it grow. When it stops growing on one side, turn it around and lean it so that the light of the coals can reach the top of the loaf and leave it alone. The dough will rise and begin to harden off, then lightly brown on the surface. When it has begun to do this, go ahead and place the bowl over the coals right side up, but 6 to 10 inches above the coals themselves. This will

allow a gentler heat to cook the loaf. When you are about getting really hungry, and you smell it, and you can't wait any longer, pull the bowl away from the heat and allow it to cool slightly. Then go for it. It takes a while, but it's worth it!

Perhaps you want something faster? Just follow the above recipe, but break it up into balls about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. On a flat sheet or in the bottom of the skillet follow the same directions. Just as good, but a lot faster!

I cup Bannock and 1/2 to 2/3 cup water plus 1 egg. Mix it up until it is a thick batter or paste and grease your skillet with a piece of uncooked bacon fat. Pour into the skillet just enough to form about a 6 inch puddle. Place this over coals of the fire but raise off of them about 2 inches. When the batter begins to bubble and the bubbles in the center do not refill themselves, turn the pancake over. Do not be surprised if the entire thing doesn't grow to about an inch thick. When the edges against the bottom of the pan turn a deep brown, lift the pancake out of the skillet, drop in about a 1/4 by 1/2 piece of bacon fat and put the pancake on the plate, or wherever. It's a lot of fun to throw into the batter wild gooseberries, blueberries, blackberries, logan (or salmon)berries, elderberries, etc. as available in the wild. (I'll save my syrup recipe for later!) For the stewpot, about a tblspn of bannock moistened with bacon fat and dropped in the cooking stew will form a nice dumpling for a tasty additive. Just toss in your own favorite ingredients, such as Jerusalem Artichokes, wild potato, your favorite herbs, a chopped up squirrel or rabbit, cover it all with water, and bury it in the coals for about 3 hours. When you dig it up, drop in the dumpling and let them swell up. Sit back and relax and enjoy, you'll not want to do much for a while! Mix a couple of tablespoons of Bannock with about 1/2 cup of water and pour into the pan with an extra egg or two, and you have a fine crepe for your favorite jelly (in about 4 minutes).

Clean a fresh fish, scale or skin and pat dry. Flip the fish or fillet into a pan of dry Bannock and cover the fillet. Leave it there for a minute or so, then drop fillet (or fish) into hot bacon grease in the skillet. It will brown off crusty in 1 to 2 minutes with the cooked fish inside.

Out in the field, you are your own boss and chef. A little knowledge of what you have available is a great asset. Enjoy!

# Magazine Distributer Sought

The Bankhead Monitor Corporation is seeking an expansion of operations in a statewide publishing endeavor that will be called ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS or ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST AND STREAM.

We need a statewide distributor to put our magazine into every town.

We will continue to publish the Bankhead Monitor under this broader scope. This will enable us to build a statewide outdoor organization that will be unique. All Alabama National Forests and State forests should eventually be covered.

The Bankhead Monitor has become a popular magazine with those who have discovered it's flavorful blend of wit, local outdoor articles and a call for preservation of the public forest lands. It intends to promote all outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, woodcraft, Indian Lore, history, pioneer life etc., with an environmental emphasis on preserving our forests from the ravages of clearcutting and development. The protection of the habitat of endangered species, rivers, and botanical areas are of special concern.

We are the true conservationists of the 90's. We will demand the preservation of Wild Earth forever.

We also are looking for a north Alabama person interested in selling advertizement for this magazine on commission. Many businesses are interested in protecting our environment. Contact: The Bankhead Monitor P.O. 117, Moulton, Al. 35650 or call Lamar Marshall at (205) 974-6166.

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# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Reflections on life in the eve of the day

# THE WHIRLWINDS OF TIME: THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE

by Lamar Marshall

As science and technology race towards discovering greater and more powerful energies by which to control man, his environment and ultimately the universe itself, the most powerful of natural forces thunders around us unheard.

I can almost hear the laughter of God Himself as he sits in the heavens and laughs in derision as He unfolds His arms and spreads them across the annals of time.

Time, the ultimate bound of man. The ultimate destroyer. The mightiest conqueror.

Ruthless and uncaring, time has swept away the greatest of world kingdoms. The ashes and broken pottery of one empire support the foundations of next.

Unless the pattern of world history changes, the world order of today will litter the countryside of the next era of civilization.

Time drains away the bodily powers of the most powerful warriors and kings. It takes the mighty works of man and chews them to shreds.

The earth is but a vast graveyard of the millions who have perished in the dungeon of time, and if you could hear its faint whisper " I wait for you. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust...", your attitude toward life might be changed. You might gain a new reverance and respect.

Time takes the most beautiful woman and leaves her a skeleton covered with wrinkles.

Time strips the rich and famous of all their wealth and leaves them forgotten. As Shakespeare correctly observed - " The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Time will rob you of your loved ones. One by one they yield to the common fate of man. And there is not one thing you or your science can do to stop it. I can see in my memories the youthful exhilaration of my own Dad, his lightheartedness and enjoyment of life. I can never forget the grayed and wrinkled corpse I witnessed in the coffin.

I have seen a son born, live and die after only 18 years. Eighteen years of "time".

Time will eventually separate you from everything in this world that you hold dear. For it cannot be stopped or even slowed.

Time is the invisible barrier that surrounds us all. We cannot see it, we cannot grasp it, we cannot control its passing. And we cannot withstand being swallowed up in its passing whirlwind.

You have heard it said that time heals. Should you have the opportunity to be healed in time, do not forget that you will inevitably be killed by time. Prepare yourself for eternity.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

An old woodsman Billy Busby is with us. He is always welcome to the warm side of our campfire.

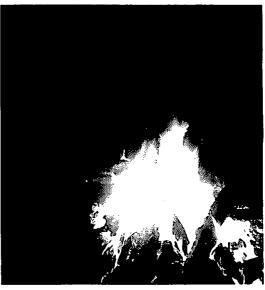
"On October 27th as I sat down to rest and reflect, I noticed the leaves falling. I wrote a poem at that time.

Oh, the falling leaves
Floating on the evening breeze;
Floating downward, some with haste,
Some with ease.

In death they come from the trees
That life so precious we might breathe
Multicolored on the forest floor
We step through as an open door
What life and gifts so precious we adore
Unoticed as if so small,

The gift of life they give to all."

Bill Busby



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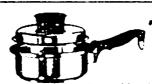
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