

NATURE

ALABAMA

Summer 2017 • nature.org/alabama



Roger W. Mangham © Pat Byington

Director's Message

Dear Supporters,

Armed with a long-term vision for freshwater conservation for people and nature in our state, members of our team are often found in the field. We take a "boots on the ground" approach when it comes to water security, land protection, healthy oceans and coasts, climate change and sustainable cities. We're translating science into action, and we're getting results. This newsletter describes a handful of recent successes.

For real-time results from the field, visit and like our Facebook page, [facebook.com/thenatureconservancyinalabama](https://www.facebook.com/thenatureconservancyinalabama)

Yours in conservation,

Roger W. Mangham
Alabama State Director

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Thank you for helping us protect the lands and waters of Alabama. To make a gift, visit support.nature.org/alabama or donate via check (payable to "Nature Conservancy—AL Chapter") using the envelope in this magazine. Thank you!



Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future (LEAF) measure a tree in East Lake Park in 2016. © The Nature Conservancy; LEAF interns and Francesca Gross (fourth person from the left)

The Science of Trees in the Cities

i-Tree Tools are in the public domain and freely accessible

A community tree inventory is key to understand how much energy is saved, the extent to which storm water effects are mitigated and the quantity of carbon stored by limbs and trunk. This summer in Birmingham a pilot urban tree inventory is underway lead by The Nature Conservancy and inspired by the Jefferson County Urban Forestry Working Group.

"In East Lake Park and close to Ruffner Mountain, our 20 trained volunteers will be measuring tree heights, diameters, crown spreads, tree species and tree health. These measurements will be analyzed by a state-of-the-art computer software suite created by the US Forest Service called i-Tree," said Francesca Gross, urban conservation associate. The tools help users measure the ecosystem benefits provided by urban forests. Learn more at nature.org/alabama

Join Us for Dinner on the Farm

Natasha McCrary of 1818 Farms and Chef Jakob Reed present "Dinner on the Farm" September 14, 2017, 5:30 pm, to benefit The Nature Conservancy in Alabama. Guests will enjoy a four-course farm-to-table, gourmet experience in historic Mooresville, AL.

Reserve your seat at the table at nature.org/alabama



1818 Farms © The Nature Conservancy



CLOCKWISE: Alabama 2017 Burn Crew (left to right) Keaton Hallman, Josh Tracy, Roger W. Mangham, Jamie Watson (sunglasses), Dalton Hollingsworth, Allan Overstreet, Breanna Renee Ryan, Sam Lynch, Rachel Granberg (kneeling), Chuck Byrd and Keith Tassin © The Nature Conservancy (Chuck Byrd); Controlled burn at the Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve; Mountain longleaf pine trees at the Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve

Burning Passion for Alabama’s Natural Ecosystems

The Alabama Chapter uses controlled burns to restore native habitats and improve wildlife habitat across the state. Since 2000, our ambitious team has conducted over 200 controlled burns on over 20,000 acres of some of Alabama’s most significant ecological places and assisted our partners in burning over 100,000 acres on our public lands. In their largest solo burn of the 2017 season—a 450-acre burn in late February—two crews with a total of 11 members facilitated a burn adjacent to the Little Cahaba River, in the Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve. While this burn was conducted solely by Conservancy staff, we often collaborate with private landowners and state and federal partners to conduct as many controlled burns as possible during the burn season. Controlled burns take a lot of planning and tremendous coordination, but they’re worth it: they are crucially important to revitalizing Alabama’s habitats for people and nature. To get involved, visit support.nature.org/alabama

Students Flex Their Philanthropic Muscles

In Tuscaloosa, students in the Honors College Environmental Research and Advocacy class at The University of Alabama have a bird on the brain, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus borealis*). To benefit the species, students organized a trail run affectionately dubbed the Oakmulgee Pecker Trekker in the Talladega National Forest. See the winning results at nature.org/alabama



Red-cockaded woodpecker © Carlton Ward Jr.

NATURE ALABAMA

Meet Keith Tassin

At a certain time of the year, it’s not uncommon for the faint smell of smoke to emanate from Keith Tassin’s office. As the Director of Conservation and Fire Manager, Keith is literally blazing trails with controlled burns to restore longleaf pine forest, protect drinking water and enhance wildlife habitats.



Keith Tassin handling an Eastern indigo snake © The Nature Conservancy (Chuck Byrd)

From 2014 through 2016, Keith led 83 controlled burns—more burns than any other Nature Conservancy Burn Boss during those years. Laser-focused on conservation to benefit both people and nature for over 25 years, he joined the Conservancy in 1990 as part of a team surveying the biodiversity of the ACE Basin in South Carolina. In 1993 he started working on the Altamaha River project in SE Georgia and he has been part of the Alabama Chapter since 1999. Since then, he has held several roles including Land Steward, Director of Stewardship and Director of Terrestrial Conservation. An avid hunter, birder and lover of all things outdoors, Keith lives in Birmingham with his wife Cindy Lowry, director of Alabama Rivers Alliance.



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