

BRANCHING OUT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Wildlife Calendar</i> | 2 |
| <i>Tree products</i> | 2 |
| <i>Blackberries</i> | 3 |
| <i>Bobwhite Quail</i> | 3 |
| <i>TN Wood Products</i> | 4 |



The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior. FSC® certified by the Rainforest Alliance



The mark of responsible forestry

columbia FOREST PRODUCTS™

KEEPING WILDLIFE AT HOME IN YOUR FOREST

Managing forests for wildlife usually means managing them for diversity. Not just old growth, and not just timber, but diversity of habitat which also includes fields of native vegetation. So what can you do in your forest?

Wildlife need three things: food, water, and shelter or cover. When evaluating your forest for these characteristics, you must also evaluate your neighbor. Food plots may not attract wildlife if food is not a limiting factor in the landscape. Find what is missing in the area and make sure it is found in your forest.

Wildlife like to move in protected areas or corridors. You can leave trees in a corridor through your timber harvest to leave space for animals to move about your property. This will be even more successful if you can connect a feeding area to a bedding area. Often, leaving a streamside management zone (no harvesting on ei-

ther side of a creek) can accomplish this.

Brush piles attract wildlife such as rabbits, snakes, mice, chipmunks, skunks, and the like. Those creatures also attract coyotes, bear, foxes, and bobcats. People often forget that larger game animals are attracted to smaller animals, or in other words, food.

Plant fruit trees throughout your property. Apples can benefit both yourself and the wildlife. Try to leave seed bearing trees such as oaks, black cherry, serviceberry, dogwoods, and hickories scattered about in your woods.

Planting evergreen cover, such as a few acres of pine trees in a hardwood forest is beneficial to wildlife.

Thinning the forest improves growth and vitality of the trees, helping them ward off insects and disease. But it

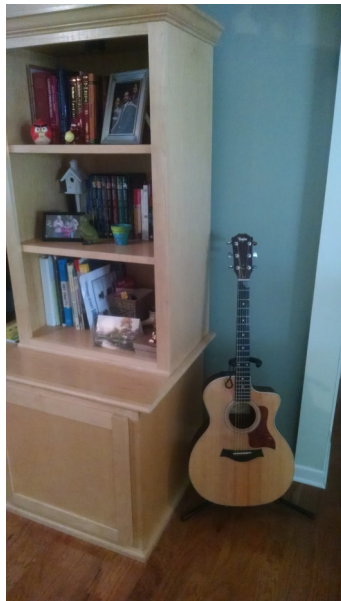
also brings sunlight to the forest floor and allows plants to grow. Many herbs and plants will grow naturally that are beneficial to wildlife. You can supplement them with plants such as blueberries and blackberries.

Early successional habitat, basically native plants and wildflowers in a field, is important for birds and small game animals. The transition from this to shrubs or forest is called an edge effect. If you want a lot of wildlife on your property, you need a lot of edge.

Look online at state extension for free information on managing your timber and at the same time, improving wildlife on your property.



Brush piles attract wildlife; just make sure you keep them far from your house because they also attract rodents and snakes!



WILDLIFE CALENDAR FOR SUMMER

Most whitetail fawns are born in June and it is the peak hatch for wild turkeys and bobwhite quails. With that in mind, do not mow old fields that are providing early successional habitat for these species. The time to manage fields for wildlife is with a controlled burn in late March. Also, most songbirds hatch in June.

When trying to maintain a wildlife field in summer, you may need to use chemical

controls for invasives and pioneer tree species such as sweetgum, red maple, privet, and multiflora rose. If you are working with less than an acre, simply pull up unwanted plants by hand.

Try to finish planting native warm season grasses by early June. Maintain firebreaks by planting or disking during this time as well. Now is the time to apply lime to your fields if needed. Always test soil fertility

through local extension before applying fertilizer.

Most of the time, water is the limiting factor when trying to attract game species and wildlife. Creating a pool near a spring seep can have more impact than a food plot.

Condensed from Wildlife Management Calendar, Craig Harper, UT Extension

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT TREES?

Many products are derived from trees and often we do not recognize them. Everyone readily identifies fruits from trees: apples, pears, oranges, walnuts, and pecans, for example.

Solid wood products, such as lumber, drum sticks, furniture, baseball bats, gym floors, and guitars are also easy to recognize as tree products. But you might forget that wooden paint brush handle, the rolling pin in the kitchen, or simple things like popsicle sticks and tooth picks.

Your world is awash in paper products that you probably take for granted. We all are quick to identify paper, books, and envelopes as wood products. But many products you buy are packaged in cardboard made from trees: cereal boxes, oatmeal containers, spaghetti noodles, Debbie cakes, and orange juice con-

tainers. Don't forget that coffee filters, napkins, and the bags that flour and sugar come in are paper as well.

Tree bark is used for products such as cork for wine bottles and fishing poles. Cinnamon is also tree bark. Most bagged mulches at home and garden centers are made from tree bark. Aspirin was originally derived from the bark of the willow tree. Today, there are still dyes and pharmaceuticals that are made from chemicals in tree bark.

Chemicals from trees are used in: PVC stabilizers, synthetic lubricants, corrosion inhibitors, soaps and detergents, rubber processing additives, asphalt additives, concrete additives, epoxy additives, plasticizers, metalworking chemicals, oil field chemicals, waxes, and various flavoring agents.

Witch-hazel and eucalyptus leaves are used to make the

products that bear those names. The narrow-leaved tea-tree has spawned an entire hair care line. You have no doubt cooked with bay leaves. Leaves from pine needles are often used in potpourri products.

Gums, which are made from tree sap, are found in: adhesives, hairspray, soaps, cough syrups, shampoo, dish washing liquid, citrus sodas, and printing ink. My personal favorite sap products would be maple syrup and maple sugar candy. There are even pure maple sap (not boiled down) energy drinks.

There is the natural beauty that trees bring to landscapes and yards. Where would you hang a rope swing or a hammock without a tree? Trees and the products they provide greatly improve the quality of our lives.

BLACKBERRIES

Blackberries, and closely related raspberries, are popular as a “pick your own” fruit. Many an award winning jam, jelly, or pie has been created with the sweet taste of the large, sweet, black berries of this thorny plant. Wildlife, particularly bears, benefit from this plant as well. Planting native varieties is one way to increase food and cover for wildlife on your property.

There are different varieties of blackberries. Make sure that you select a type that grows well in your region. Blackberries will grow on nearly any soil type, but fer-

tile, well-drained soils are best. Avoid planting them in areas where the soil remains moist throughout the year. Plant them on north facing slopes to help reduce injuries from spring frosts. North facing slopes are cooler and therefore delay flower buds from opening. They prefer full sun, but will tolerate a little shade. The best time to plant is December through March.

Most blackberries benefit from a trellis, or rather, those who plan on picking them would benefit from some control of how the plant grows. This is not nec-

essary for all varieties.

Blackberry canes grow for two years, fruit, and then die. Plants keep producing shoots in this manner for many years. Expect between 10 and 20 pounds of fruit per plant annually. Be quick to harvest them before the birds beat you to them!



Blackberries are high in antioxidants and are often used in commercial wine making

HABITAT BALANCE—BOBWHITE QUAIL

For many years, Bobwhite Quail has seen a dramatic decline in its numbers as land management has changed; nearly 80% since the '60s. Throughout the '40s and '50's, many landowners grew their own crops and periodically burned vegetation from the forest understory. These practices created ideal quail habitat.

Quail need what is known as early successional habitat to survive. These are grassy, weedy areas that the young can move through and still hide. Native grasses provide seeds that they feed on. Burning and thinning in pine forests provide the grasses in the forest floor that quail need. In the past, farmers working smaller fields created a patch work

of early successional habitat for quail to thrive in.

Today, intensively managed pine plantations and also larger, intensively managed agriculture row crops have removed much of this habitat. Planting fescue for fields and keeping these areas mowed prevent quail from using them. Also, to a lesser scale, decisions to manage the National Forests primarily for old growth have diminished quail numbers. I mention “balance” in the title because these shifts in management have created ideal deer and wild turkey habitat.

Quail need savannah-like woodland forests. These are open forests (more sky than trees) with knee-high

grasses and native plants in the understory. These are achieved by thinning forests and periodic controlled burns. Disking along the edge of a forest can create early successional habitat as well. Burning is important because it helps expose soil which the quail need to move through grassy areas and avoid predators. Also, quail cannot reach food under the leaf/litter layer on a forest floor. Prescribed burning to maintain early successional habitat is considered the most critical management tool for restoring quail habitat.

Balance is the key. Managing only for trees is detrimental to quail and other species who need grasses and herbs in the landscape.



Corporate Headquarters

7900 Triad Center Dr
Greensboro, NC 27409
800-637-1609

Timber Offices

Old Fort, NC
Greg Decker
828-724-9495

Craigsville, WV
Chris Neal
304-742-5317

Klamath Falls, OR
Mark Slezak
541-273-2504

Newport, VT Veneer Division
Dwight Jensen
802-334-6711

Forest Certification Manager
Richard Taylor Jr
423-914-3446

Appalachian Timber
Manager
Jim Sitts
888-737-0514

TENNESSEE WOOD PRODUCTS

Columbia sources its wood resources from multiple states across the US. Trees are a renewable resource - they can be replanted and re-grown after every harvest. In Tennessee, trees cover 14 million acres; over half of the state. Tennessee has maintained its forested acres or increased them for over 50 years. During that time, Tennessee has grown more timber than it has harvested. This is what sustainability is about—keeping the forest in use as a forest. Columbia is proud to be able to source wood from states who are active in main-



taining their renewable forests. Providing economic incentive to forest landowners is one way Columbia helps ensure that forests will be around for our children's children.

COME SEE US!

Have you ever toured a plywood or veneer mill? We would love to show you how we transform wood into these valuable products. Many students, educators, Forestry Associations, and landowners have toured our mills. If you are a landowner, call one of our Timber Offices and take time to walk through our process.

In the meantime, you can see a video from our YouTube channel. Just type "Hardwood Plywood How it's Made." Check out our other videos from Columbia Forest Products as well.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can visit our site at: www.columbiaforestproducts.com. Please come by on occasion and look for our forestry section for landowners. (Click on "Resources" then select "Landowners.")