



Forestland ownership series



Small-grain management



Forest Awareness Week



Prescribed burn plan



Pine release treatment



Flying squirrels



Timber Tales

ISSUE NO. 167



More details about forestland ownership

Risk: What you don't know can really hurt you

This is the second article in a series of articles designed to educate forest landowners about some of the basic principles involved in owning and investing in forestland. The motivation to begin this series comes from conversations with forest landowners and investors. I realize that some of the principles may be simple and straightforward, while some principles may be extremely complex and may require more explanation. I would like the topics in this series to be timely, relevant and dynamic, so I would appreciate your feedback. Please send feedback on the articles and suggestions for future articles to rhutchins@agcenter.lsu.edu.

By Robbie Hutchins

Let's begin our discussion on risks associated with forestland ownership and investing by discussing internal risk. The most common type of internal risk associated with forestland ownership and investing is financial risk. There are several types of financial risks associated with forestland ownership and investing. Remember, the good news is that you have the ability to minimize the impacts of internal risks by making wise management decisions. The bad news is failure to take into account any of these risks could cause forest landowners to lose part or all of their investment.

The first type of internal financial risk a forest landowner needs to be aware of is the risk of overpayment. Determining the true value of a tract of forestland can be very difficult without proper knowledge and experience. That means that the risk of overpayment is extremely high. Overpayment at the time of purchase is a financial hurdle that can never be overcome. In other words, it is practically guaranteed that forest landowners that pay too much for a tract of forestland will lose money on their investment without selling the land. The good news is a potential landowner can eliminate the risk of overpayment by securing the services of a consulting forester to conduct

a land and timber appraisal of the property to determine the market value of the tract prior to purchase.

The second type of internal financial risk a forest landowner needs to understand is the risk connected with the illiquidity of an investment in forestland. As a caveat, let me say that this risk does not exist if a landowner is willing to sell the land. However, most forest landowners are unwilling to sell their land except in an absolute emergency. For these landowners any monies allocated to the value of premerchantable timber on any potential forestland

Continued on Page 2

purchase or any monies spent on the establishment of a timber stand on a tract currently owned constitute an illiquid investment. An illiquid investment is any investment that cannot easily be sold or exchanged for cash without a substantial loss in value. Premerchantable timber fits this definition perfectly. In reality, standing timber has no real value to a forest landowner if the need to recover all or part of initial investment occurs prior to the timber growing to merchantable size. The only way a landowner can recover any of their initial investment in standing premerchantable timber is if the landowner sells all or part of the property. The good news is that forest landowners can minimize the risks associated with illiquidity of an investment in forestland through financial planning and preparation for future financial needs. By doing so landowners will be forced to prematurely withdraw monies dedicated to forestland investments.

A third type of internal financial risk is the risk of the unexpected cost of owning and managing forestland. Those of you who have owned property for years could do a better job discussing this than I will because of your experience. Most forest landowners understand the basic costs of land ownership. Items such as periodic mortgage and property tax payments are expected. However, there are many unexpected costs associated with land ownership. These costs can really add up quickly. Unexpected costs could include costs of property improvement and maintenance, such as surveys, gates, fences, posted signs, boundary line maintenance, culverts, dirt and gravel, mowing equipment, road building, road maintenance, fire line construction and maintenance, nuisance animal control, food plot installation and maintenance, utility costs, and more. At best, unexpected



costs decrease the rate of return on forestland investment and could affect the money available to conduct scheduled management activities on your property. At worst, a landowner may have to sell land because the cost of ownership is higher than expected. The good news is that a forest landowner has the opportunity to manage the risks associated with unexpected costs and minimize their impact on the investment.

The final type of internal financial risk associated with forestland ownership is the lack of a risk premium. Risk premium is the return in excess of a risk-free rate of return an investment is expected to yield. In layman's terms, risk premium is the extra money an investor gets paid to compensate for the risks involved with an investment. An investment in forestland can be a very risky investment. Unfortunately, we will see that in greater detail when we discuss external risks. From a financial perspective, it is foolish to invest in risky assets unless you

are getting paid a risk premium that justifies the risk. When I was a young, inexperienced forester, a very wise forest landowner educated me about his risk premium. He told me that if the internal rate of return on a forestland investment would not yield 5% to 6% more than a AAA rated bond, his company would invest money in bonds instead of timber because of an insufficient risk premium. There is no way to guarantee that you will receive a risk premium that compensates you for your investment risk. However, you minimize the risk of not receiving a risk premium by doing everything you can to increase your overall return on your investment by not paying too much for your property, managing costs (especially the unexpected costs), and by taking advantage of the IRS tax breaks for actively managed forestland investments and tree farms.

Robbie Hutchins is an associate area agent specializing in forestry for the AgCenter in the Central Region.



Prescribed burn workshop enables landowners to ‘put more fire on the ground’

By Keith Hawkins

Over the past few years, the national news media has reported about catastrophic wildfires in the western United States. In California, land managers are increasing the use of prescribed fire to avoid these violent conflagrations, which displace citizens and destroy infrastructure. In Louisiana, longleaf pine is a native tree well suited for southern fire ecology, and numerous plant and

animal species thrive in the longleaf landscape. The safe, effective use of managed fire provides both social and ecological benefits.

In June of 2019, 28 people attended an annual prescribed burn workshop in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Forestry (LDAF). LDAF provided a venue at the Woodworth District Office near Woodworth. This multiday event entailed both classroom training and a live fire exercise in the Alexander State Forest.

This training workshop enables forest landowners to burn their lands safely and legally. Topics included fuels, burning techniques, proper tools, optimal weather conditions, smoke management, liability management, planning, fire behavior and more. This training will begin the process of becoming a Louisiana Certified Burn Manager (CBM). The completion of five prescribed fires and their documentation completes the process.

Continued on Page 4



Continued from Page 3

Dr. Niels de Hoop was the lead instructor for this training, and he also enables forestry students to be CBMs before graduation. Dr. de Hoop spent a lot of time covering the “burn plan” because this document will provide limited liability protection for land managers using controlled fire. One important topic was smoke management because most

complaints about these managed burns is the smoke affecting sensitive areas.

Evaluations of this event revealed that most attendees felt “more confident,” and they aspired to “plan better.” According to these evaluations, the understanding of these students regarding various aspects of controlled fire increased for most.

The next prescribed burn workshop will be October 16 to 18 at the Idlewild Research Station near Clinton. Contact Whitney Wallace, area extension forester, at wwallace@agcenter.lsu.edu, for more information.

Keith Hawkins is an associate area agent specializing in forestry for the AgCenter in the Southwestern Region.



Establishing and managing small grains in moist soil areas for waterfowl

By Luke Stamper

Summer has almost passed, and wetland wildlife managers across the state are planning, preparing and implementing habitat management practices in hopes of attracting and providing nutrition for migrating and wintering waterfowl for the fast approaching season. That list of activities is easier said than done this year as long-term flooding in the state, specifically the northeast region, has impacted routine waterfowl management in moist soil areas.

In a routine year, waterfowl managers commonly practice moist soil management with the intention of establishing desirable, high-quality native plants and decreasing low-value, undesirable plants. By definition, moist soil management is the drawing down of water during the growing season to promote germination of native plants. This practice is then followed by the reflooding of the area. Successful drawdowns that establish desirable native plants provide quality food and habitat for waterfowl, along with a variety of other wetland-dependent species. This management technique requires concise planning and implementation, as plant composition is driven by the timing of the water drawdown from the unit. An early season drawdown generally occurs between March 15 and May 1, or the first 45 days of the growing season. Midseason drawdowns are indicated by the second 45 days of the growing season, May 1 to June 15. Finally, the late-season drawdown is delineated by anything beyond the first 90 days of the growing season, June 15 and later.



In a perfect world a manager is able to effectively drawdown to promote desired native plants. In years such as this when low-lying wetland areas remain flooded well into the growing season, it becomes increasingly difficult for the manager to get water off moist soil areas, and it becomes more difficult to have a desired plant response. This situation creates two types of problems: a reduced window

of time for drawdown and intervening for a successful response and site conditions favored by problematic plant species. Just a few examples of problematic plants are alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), cattails (*Typha spp.*), beakrush (*Rhynchospora corniculata*), water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*) and coffee beans (*Sesbania herbacea*). All of these species can create monocultures and reduce overall food availability. There are several options for management techniques when undesirable plants are in high densities. Those techniques include disking, mowing, chopping, herbicides, cropping and shallow flooding when problem plants are young. The situations created by the extended inundation here in the northeast region tend to greatly reduce those options, leaving a need for late-season intervention that still has the ability to produce substantial food for waterfowl. Obviously, those requirements lead to the establishment and management of small grains.

Small grains planted for waterfowl include Japanese millet, wild millet, browntop millet, foxtail millet and white proso millet. All of these options are annual plants with the ability to produce an abundance of seed even when established in the mid to late growing season. Japanese and browntop millet tend to be the go-to variety in the northeast region mainly due to their availability for purchase, adaptability to site index and short maturation period to dry seed. Once established, Japanese millet can be slightly inundated, making it ideal

Continued on Page 6

for situations where drainage is an issue. Japanese millet is an excellent reseeding variety when conditions allow for plant maturity and seed production. Japanese millet has a maturation date of approximately 55 days after germination, and the deterioration rate is 57% after 90 days of inundation. Establishment can be achieved by top-sowing 25 pounds of pure live seed per acre on a well-prepared seedbed. In top-sowing situations, using a cultipacker before and after broadcasting is great for ensuring seed-to-soil contact. If using a no-till drill, then reduce rate to 15 pounds of pure live seed per acre. Browntop millet is adapted more to a well-drained soil condition. Browntop millet is prone to lodging on fertile soils where plant height is maximized, making it ideal for placing in front of blinds where open water is needed. Maturation period for browntop millet is 60 to 65 days with a deterioration rate of 25% after 90 days. The low percentage of deterioration is another reason to place this species in front of a blind so that food availability is maintained longer and within shotgun range. Establishment and seeding rate recommendations

for browntop millet are the same as Japanese millet, making the two varieties great companion plants.

Fertilizer considerations should be based on a soil test that can be provided by any local LSU AgCenter extension office across the state. If a recommended soil test is lacking, then an application of nitrogen at

By definition, moist soil management is the drawing down of water during the growing season to promote germination of native plants. This practice is then followed by the reflooding of the area.



Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

40 to 60 pounds per acre when the millet has reached 4 to 8 inches tall will be advantageous.

Millet is a grass, and they open the wetland manager up to several herbicide options to gain control of problematic broadleaf plants that may be encountered. The use of herbicides to control undesirable weeds will also aid in promoting maximum seed yield through the reduction of competitive weeds at critical growth stages. Examples of available post-emergent herbicides to be used in the control

of broadleaf weeds are 2,4-D; Aim; or Banvel. Please refer to the LSU AgCenter Louisiana Chemical Weed Management Guide (publication No. 1565) for labeled rates, instructions and considerations.

Finally, after establishment has been achieved, a weekly or biweekly scouting trip across the planted

acreage may be necessary to monitor fall armyworm presence or damage. Scouting the entire planted area can help deduce the critical areas to avoid spraying the whole unit. Several insecticides are available for controlling armyworms, and information can be found in the LSU AgCenter Insect Pest Management Guide (publication No. 1838). Local extension agents in your respective parishes can assist you if an issue should arise.

Water levels all around the state are beginning to decline, and soon waterfowl managers will undoubtedly be ready to get into the field to conduct strategic habitat improvements. Cropping intervention may be a likely fit if you are consumed with problematic, undesirable plants and fear there isn't enough time for native plant management. Good luck this growing season!

Luke Stamper is the LSU AgCenter area wildlife and forestry agent for the Northeast Region.



Slash pine release treatment; David Dickens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.

Do your pines need a release treatment?

Let's face it, pine seedlings can be pretty tough. Just because your seedlings are alive doesn't mean that they are growing at their best. Survival is not enough to guarantee a good stand of timber at final harvest. Pine seedlings require sufficient sunlight and nutrients to become firmly established. Any other vegetation near that seedling will compete for site resources until the seedling reaches 4 to 5 feet in height. So, why bother doing an herbaceous or woody release treatment? The simple answer is that a little bit of extra care in those first few years can result in more value at the end

of rotation. A release treatment allows the seedling room to grow by controlling the competing vegetation. Not only does free growing space increase survival chances for the seedling, but it also increases the growing potential of the seedling, allowing it the potential for greater quality growth over time (Cunningham et al., 2019). Controlling weeds in the early years of a tree's development leads to larger stem diameters (Miller et al., 2003) and will have more growth flushes and longer shoot elongation at each flush, effectively increasing height growth (Hansen and Bilan, 1989). Release can be

accomplished using mechanical or chemical methods, or by a combination of the two.

Mechanical release treatments include mowing, brush cutting or physical removal by pulling or chopping. When landowners establish a plantation in an old agricultural field or pasture, the layout of the plantation can be designed to allow mowing for grass and herbaceous control by spacing rows 2 to 3 feet wider than the width of the equipment being used. The first year of plantation establishment

Continued on Page 8

References

- Cunningham, K; Taylor, E.; Barber, B.; Holley, G.; and M. Blazier. 2019. Forestry Herbicide Prescriptions: Western Gulf Region. <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP553.pdf>.
- Hansen, R.S. and M.V. Bilan. 1989. Height. Growth of Loblolly and Slash Pine Plantations in the Northern Post-Oak Belt of Texas. *So. J. Appl. For.* 13: 5-8.
- Harrington, T.B.; and M.B. Edwards. 1999. Understory vegetation, resource availability, and litterfall responses to pine thinning and woody vegetation control in longleaf pine plantations. *Can. J. For. Res.* 29(7):1055-1064.
- Miller, J.H.; Zutter, B.R.; Zedaker, S.M.; Edwards, M.B.; and R.A. Newbold. 2003. Growth and Yield Relative to Competition for Loblolly Pine Plantations to Midrotation- A Southeastern United States Regional Study. *South. J. Appl. For.* https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_miller073.pdf.
- Moorhead, D. 2001. Forest Herbicides. Warnell School of Forest Resources online publication.
- <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/sites/spb/pine2/Copy%20of%20Forest%20Herbicide%20for%20TN%20Notes%202001.pdf>.
- Virginia Department of Forestry. Managing Your Pine Forest. <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/manage/pine/how-to.htm>.
- Texas A&M Forest Service. Herbaceous Weed Control After Planting. [https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFSMain/Manage_Forest_and_Land/Landowner_Assistance/Stewardship\(1\)/Herbaceous_Weed_Control_After_Planting.pdf](https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFSMain/Manage_Forest_and_Land/Landowner_Assistance/Stewardship(1)/Herbaceous_Weed_Control_After_Planting.pdf).

Continued from Page 7

will have more frequent need of mowing than later years. As the trees get taller, mowing can be limited to once per season around midsummer until the trees have successfully out-competed the surrounding vegetation. Hand-release treatments may be needed in cases where invasive species and difficult-to-control species must be physically removed from around seedlings. In these cases, once the competing vegetation has been removed from the seedling, a follow-up spot application of herbicide may be needed to prevent resprouting.

Landowners who reestablish plantations on cutover forestland may find they have both herbaceous and woody competition issues in the first few years of stand growth and development. These landowners can use brush cutting or hand chopping effectively where hardwood sprouts are competition. Combining chopping with prescribed herbicides can result in greater effectiveness, especially for hard-to-control species. Cost can become a factor in hand-release treatments so it is important to only control as much as needed to allow the seedlings room to be “free to grow.”

Chemical release treatments involve the application of herbicides. This treatment strategy is very effective at controlling unwanted competing vegetation in planted pines. However, there is generally a higher cost per acre for the use of herbicides, and special licenses must be obtained by the applicator. Use of herbicides for pine release normally occurs when pine seedlings are between 1 and 3 years old and depends on the amount of competing vegetation present on the site. In order to prevent damaging the young pine trees, use of herbicide as a release



Virginia pine; Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org.

treatment is normally applied during the summer and early fall. These chemicals are targeted to species other than pine. The timing of the application coincides with the time of year with peak leaf area on the competing vegetation, allowing maximum absorption of the chemical herbicides. There are many methods available to apply a chemical release treatment from either ground-based equipment or aircraft. Methods of applying herbicides for release include:

Spot spraying: The herbicide is applied using a backpack sprayer to an area around each individual seedling.

Strip spraying: The application of a path of herbicide about 2 feet wide along the line of planted seedlings. This can be accomplished using a backpack sprayer or a ground-based spraying apparatus attached to a vehicle (tractor, skidder, 4-wheeler, etc.).

Continued on Page 9

Winn Parish Forest Awareness Week adds field tour

This year Donny Moon of the LSU AgCenter added another public education opportunity to the fantastic events at the Louisiana Forestry Awareness and Festival week in Winn Parish. Landowners from around Louisiana were invited to learn more about the forest products industry by touring pine and hardwood mills and learning more about the products the industry produces from local trees. On April 25, landowners from around Louisiana joined Moon and the staff from the LSU AgCenter for the first Forest Awareness Mill Tour.

The tour began at the parish courthouse and traveled to see Winn Timber Company just outside of Winnfield. There the participants were treated to coffee and doughnuts along with the opportunity to watch employees convert pine and hardwood logs into wood chips for shipment to regional paper facilities. Next on the tour was a stop at the West

Fraser Mill in Joyce. At this facility, larger diameter pine logs are converted into structural lumber. The tour included a production line and a look at how lumber is graded at the mill. From there the group was treated to a delicious catfish lunch at David's Pro-Burger in Joyce. No one left hungry!

The afternoon began with a tour of PBS Lumber Manufacturing in Winnfield. This mill focuses on turning small diameter logs into two-by-fours and other smaller dimensional lumber. Our host explained product optimization to the tour participants while they watched each piece of lumber be graded as it was cut. At the end of the tour he also gave all the participants a jar of his famous pickles as a treat. The second stop in the afternoon was just next door at Hixson Lumber Sales. This facility makes treated lumber. The tour group was shown the treatment plant and a variety of

products that were made there, including not only the familiar green treated rot-resistant lumber but also a new fire-resistant lumber. The last stop on the tour was a drive through the grounds at the Hanna Manufacturing facility. At Hanna Manufacturing the tour group learned about the large wooden mats being produced for oil field and timber harvesting use as well as pallet production.

At the end of the day, everyone enjoyed good conversation and good food and learned a bit more about what happens to the timber that is harvested off their properties. Moon hopes to make this mill tour day a regular part of the Louisiana Forestry Awareness and Festival week each year during the fourth week in April. So, get out your calendars for 2020 and pencil in the fourth Thursday in April and contact Mr. Moon at the LSU AgCenter office in Winn Parish to participate.

Continued from Page 8

Broadcast spraying: The application of herbicide to the entire planted area by ground or aerial equipment using state-of-the-art technical support equipment to prevent off-target application of herbicides and overapplication of chemicals.

After the trees are greater than 5 feet in height, allowing woody competition to overtop (become taller than) the pine saplings can be detrimental. If hardwood competition remains untreated, it will restrict pine growth over time, causing a loss of profits.

Landowners might believe that once the pines outgrow the smaller hardwoods that the competition impacts will go away. Unfortunately, research has shown this is not the case (Harrington and Edwards, 1999; Moorhead, 2001). Even though the hardwoods are smaller than the pines, they are competing with them for the resources of growing space, water and nutrients. For each unit of hardwood basal area, a corresponding potential pine basal area of 1.5 to 2.5 square feet is displaced. This means, for example, that if a landowner allows their hardwoods to reach 6 inches in diameter and there were around

102 hardwood trees per acre in the pine plantation (20 square feet of basal area), those trees would displace between 30 and 50 square feet of potential pine basal area. So, because a 14-inch diameter pine tree has about 1 square foot of basal area, the landowner has effectively removed between 20 and 50 saw-timber class pine trees per acre by allowing the pulpwood-sized hardwood to remain. That is at least a truckload of wood lost!

So, are your seedlings free to grow, or are you asking, "Where did they go?" Do your pine trees need a release treatment?



Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, Bugwood.org.

Rocky the Flying Squirrel

Accurately animated or far from factual?

By Dr. Ashley M. Long

As introduced in the last issue of Timber Tales, animals have played a key role in American animation since the early 1900s, and, to this day, cartoon animals star in everything from feature films and television shows to commercial advertisements and public service announcements. Clearly, species' stereotypes have influenced the development of some of our most beloved cartoon characters, but how

similar in appearance and behavior are animated wildlife to their real-life counterparts? Over the next few installments of Timber Tales, we'll take a closer look at how certain animals are portrayed in animation, starting with my personal favorite: Rocky the Flying Squirrel.

Rocket "Rocky" J. Squirrel and his best friend, Bullwinkle J. Moose, were the title characters

Continued on Page 11

of a television series created in the 1950s by Jay Ward and Alex Anderson. The animated show, which ran from 1959 to 1964 on the ABC and NBC networks, was set in the fictional town of Frostbite Falls, Minnesota, where Rocky and Bullwinkle shared a home. The duo was famous for their inventions, getting into mischief, saving the world, and trying to outrun notorious superspies Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale. Both Rocky and Bullwinkle had special skills that they used during their adventures. Most notably, Bullwinkle possessed exceptional strength and could remember every single thing he ever ate, and Rocky could glide, hover and carry objects through the air, occasionally with a boost from Bullwinkle's "mighty moose muscle." As appropriate given his full name and occupation as a flying superhero, Rocky always wore an aviator hat, and his aerial acrobatics were accompanied by jet engine sound effects. Part of Rocky's appeal stemmed from the fact that he was stylistically simple, and he was easy to recognize as a squirrel with his slate gray fur, big bushy tail, enormous eyes and two large front teeth. When he wasn't flying, Rocky walked upright on his hind legs and delivered some of the greatest puns of all time. So how does the animated Rocky character compare to the real deal?

There are 43 species of flying squirrel worldwide, but Rocky's character is most likely based on the animator's general knowledge of the flying squirrels that occur in North America. This includes three species, which are geographically separated and not known to interbreed but are indistinguishable without genetic testing. The southern flying squirrel is the species we have right here in Louisiana. They are nocturnal and

use forested habitat similar to their diurnal cousins, the eastern gray squirrel and the fox squirrel. Unlike Rocky, you won't find a flying squirrel cohabitating with a moose — that's just ridiculous! But flying squirrels are quite gregarious and may nest with other flying squirrels throughout the year. Adult flying squirrels most often build their nests in old tree snags, cavities excavated by woodpeckers, artificial nest boxes and, occasionally, buildings. In addition to their primary nest site, research conducted at the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Lab suggests that female flying squirrels maintain several secondary nests where they can flee with their young if their primary nest site becomes dangerous (e.g., during forest fires).

In hand, flying squirrels are quite small, weighing no more than 2 to 3 ounces and measuring approximately 9 inches in length. They are rarely seen in an upright position, but instead scurry along branches and tree boles on all four legs to get from one place to another. Like Rocky, they have enormous eyes, which evolved to collect light for better night vision. Unlike Rocky, their pelage is rarely monochromatic, but rather colored reddish brown and various shades of gray, and they have a creamy white belly that is often tinged with pink or cinnamon hues. In addition, flying squirrels fluoresce bright pink at night, which we can only see if we look at their fur under a black light! Scientists at Northland College in Wisconsin hypothesize that this unique reflectance may help them avoid predators, navigate in certain terrains or communicate. Alternatively, if you pay close attention while you are outside at night, you may hear them communicating via audible birdlike chirps. Research suggests that the pitch and length of these sounds may change depending on the type of information that the squirrels are trying to send (e.g.,

warning signals or location of food patches). Flying squirrels can also emit high frequency ultrasounds for communication among individuals, which could help them navigate while gliding, avoid predators and maintain social bonds. While these modes of communication aren't punny, one could argue that the diversity of signals that flying squirrels use to "talk" to one another are amazing enough to rival any of Rocky's jokes!

Unlike Rocky, who had a large bushy tail and could fly like a bird, bat or insect, flying squirrels have a 3- to 4-inch flattened tail and are not capable of true flight. Instead, they glide through the air using a furred membrane or skin — called a patagium — which extends between the wrists of their front feet and ankles of their hind feet. They also have cartilaginous spurs on each wrist that they can extend to achieve greater reach. Studies suggest that the average glide is 65 feet (slightly longer than a bowling lane), but they can glide up to 295 feet, the same distance that the Statue of Liberty is tall! Just because flying squirrels don't really "fly" doesn't mean they can't perform some of the same aerial feats as Rocky. Unbelievably, flying squirrels can reach speeds of 10 to 30 mph and using their tail as a rudder, they can make really sharp turns and even glide in semicircles to arrive at their destination!

Flying squirrels are clearly fascinating, and we hope this article has piqued your interest to learn more. Stay tuned for the next installment and contact me at amlong@agcenter.lsu.edu if you have a specific request for a comparison between a cartoon character and its real-life counterpart!

Ashley M. Long is an assistant professor of wildlife ecology at the AgCenter.



LSU AgCenter

101 Martin D. Woodin Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
LSU College of Agriculture

3688-19FA 350 10/19

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities
in programs and employment.

For more information, visit this website:

[www.lsuagcenter.com/
topics/environment/forestry](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/environment/forestry).

Area Specialists:

Northwest: Dr. Valerie West
vwest@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 318-965-2326

Northeast: Lucas Stamper
lstamper@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 318-649-2663

Central/Southwest:
Robbie Hutchins
rhutchins@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 318-767-3968

Southwest: Keith Hawkins
khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 337-463-7006

Southeast: Whitney Wallace
wwallace@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 985-748-9381

State Specialists:
Silviculture, Herbicides and Soils:
Dr. Mike Blazier
mblazier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 318-927-2578

Wildlife: Dr. Ashley Long
amlong@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 225-578-4940

Forest Products: Dr. Richard Vlosky
rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 225-578-4527

Urban Forestry: Hallie Dozier
hdozier@agcenter.lsu.edu
Office: 225-578-7219

Forest Products and Prescribed Fire:
Dr. Cornelis de Hoop
cdehoop@lsu.edu
Office: 225-578-4242