Acres & Avenues

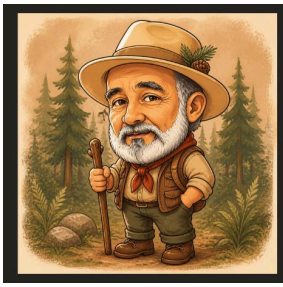
Presented by South Main · Growing Assets

Issue 5 - November 2026



As spooky season reaches its peak, we're sharing the tale of a grand antebellum mansion, a stranded French architect, and an unpaid final bill that triggered a century of paranormal phantom noises. There's a lesson to be learned!

Click Here to Read the Legend →



Stumped? Ask our forester.

Have a question about your woods or land management? Drop us a line at info@GrowingAssetsLLC.com. While we can't print every email, we'll be featuring chosen reader questions in our upcoming newsletters.



Image: Jamestown / Handel Architects

ROOTED IN INNOVATION: HOW SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE AND AUBURN UNIVERSITY ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUILDING

Southern Yellow Pine is no longer just for 2x4s and paper pulp; it is becoming a structural powerhouse capable of replacing steel and concrete in multi-story developments like Atlanta's 4-story 619 Ponce. While the Southeast has historically lagged behind regions like Europe and the West Coast in mass timber adoption, local research leaders, led by Auburn University's Mass Timber Collaborative, are leading the charge in testing, designing, and expanding high-value markets for regional landowners, sawmills, and builders. They are proving that Southern softwoods can drive a sustainable, high-value building boom right here at home.

Read the Full Article →

Did You Know?

Ascent MKE in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is the world's tallest mass timber building to date.

Standing at 284 feet tall with 25 stories, it officially took the title when it was completed in 2022.



The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth (1914) by Jennie A. Brownscombe. Source: MeisterDrucke

Grounded in Gratitude: How Early Land Wisdom Built the American Harvest

When early settlers arrived on North American shores, their survival depended on the crucial land wisdom passed down by Indigenous communities. Learn how reading the landscape, managing soil fertility, and cultivating timber stands established a timeless tradition of keeping the land healthy, productive, and valuable for generations to come.

Read the Full Reflection →



"Thanksgiving is a time for me to slow down and reflect of on God's faithfulness through the past year. He has given me so many blessings! I am *grateful* for my family, my business, and my community I am so fortunate to serve. But, *grateful* goes deeper than counting blessings. I am, and will remain, grateful regardless of the circumstances."
Rebecca Hovater - State Farm Insurance

"Thanksgiving to me is giving thanks and honor to our God, the creator of all things that we see, touch, and hear, who still blesses us with all the amazing things that he does when we do not deserve them, and then he puts people in our life to help us along life's journey."
Randy Hickox – R.L.H. Trucking, Inc.

"Thanksgiving to myself and my family means having intentional gratitude. In our family, we try to make Thanksgiving a time of gratitude. I think that being thankful for our faith, our family and our friends are the biggest things I try to focus on during Thanksgiving. Of course, we all strive to continue that year-round but especially focus on that during this time of year."
Adam Thompson, DVM – North Alabama Animal Hospital

"For me, Thanksgiving is a time to break away from the day-to-day hectic routines and busyness of life, to spend time and share meals with extended family/friends as we thank God and remember the blessings we've received over the past year. As time goes on and I experience older generations of my family who pass away, it's a little bittersweet as I reflect on memories shared with them, but it helps me realize the gift of the time we shared, and the present opportunity to make and share memories with the new generations who are coming along now."

Trent Danley, R.F. – Conservation Enforcement Officer, Alabama State Lands Division

"Thanksgiving is my favorite family holiday, and I look forward to it every year. Cooler weather, colorful fall trees and the pretty glow in the sky make me thankful that we live in such a beautiful area. This also sets the stage for the most important thing, spending time with my sweet family.

With six young grandchildren , Thanksgiving is an active time for us. Our entire family shares in cooking, and we set up a really long table outdoors with fire pits, music and fun decorations. For me, Thanksgiving means time well spent with the people I love. For this, I'm extremely grateful."

Susan Beckett, Loan Specialist – First Federal Bank

On Your November Horizon: Local Music, Autumn Strolls, & Early Season Lights



Shoals Parade **Huntsville Parade** **Nashville Parade**

Shoals Area



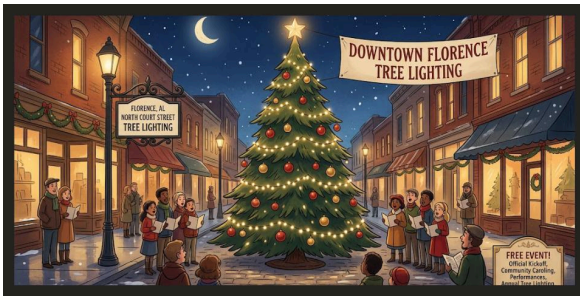
Muscle Shoals Songwriters Festival

November 6-8, 2026

Cost: Free listening sessions at select venues; ticketed pass required for main stages.

A November staple bringing dozens of hit songwriters to iconic stages across the Shoals area.

Muscle Shoals Songwriters Festival Link



Downtown Florence Tree Lighting

November 22, 2026

Cost: Free

The official kickoff to the holiday season on North Court Street featuring community caroling, performances, and the annual lighting of the tree.

Downtown Florence Tree Lighting Link

HUNTSVILLE AREA

Galaxy of Lights
Huntsville Botanical Garden

November 13, 2026 - December 31, 2026

Cost: prices vary

North Alabama's signature light event, offering dedicated walking nights prior to driving nights.



Galaxy of Lights Huntsville Botanical Garden Link

Tinsel Trail at Big Spring Park

November 27, 2026 - December 31, 2026

Cost: Free

A forest of over 400 uniquely decorated Christmas trees winding through Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville, drawing large evening crowds.



Tinsel Trail at Big Spring Park Link

NASHVILLE AREA



Christmas at Gaylord Opryland
Exterior & Atrium Light Stroll

November 6, 2026 - January 2, 2027

Cost: Complimentary (walking grounds & indoor gardens free; parking fees apply)

Over 3 million lights decorate its indoor atriums with trees, fountains, & nativity scenes.

Christmas at Gaylord Opryland Link



Cheekwood Holiday Lights

November 20, 2026 - January 3, 2027

Cost: prices vary

Cheekwood's annual seasonal event opens in mid-November, illuminating its 55 acres of botanical gardens with over one million lights, interactive displays, s'mores pits, and festive holiday markets.

Cheekwood Holiday Lights Link

112 S. Main Street, #201
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674, United States

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