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NEWS RELEASE

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ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION
LONGLEAF PINE: THE TREE THAT MADE ALABAMA
PRESENTED BY BILL FINCH
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, May 16, 2013**, as **Bill Finch** presents ***Longleaf Pine: The Tree That Made Alabama***.

The longleaf pine forest, this continent's most diverse forest ecosystem, once was also among the most widespread and extensive forests in North America, covering some 90 million acres. Wherever it grew, this distinctive forest cover transformed the landscape and the communities – human and natural -- that interacted with it. No other state had more diversity of longleaf habitat than Alabama and few other states owe so much of their cultural and economic history to the longleaf forest. The fact that Alabama is the most biologically diverse eastern state is due, in large measure, to the impact of longleaf pine on the state's ecosystems. Alabama also plays a key role in the survival of longleaf pines and the longleaf forest, and thus in preserving eastern North American biodiversity. This program will tell the story of the Alabama longleaf pine forests.

A native of DeSoto, Mississippi, Bill Finch spent many of his growing-up years in Mobile. After graduating from college in North Carolina, where he worked as an associate editor with *The Mother Earth News*, he returned to Alabama. He is the long-time garden columnist for the *Mobile Press-Register*, a radio host on weekly gardening segments, and writes a monthly column for *Alabama Gardening* magazine. He is former Alabama conservation director for The Nature Conservancy. Finch is a senior fellow with the international Ocean Foundation and executive director of the Mobile Botanical Gardens. His book, *Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See*, will be available for purchase.

This ArchiTreats presentation is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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