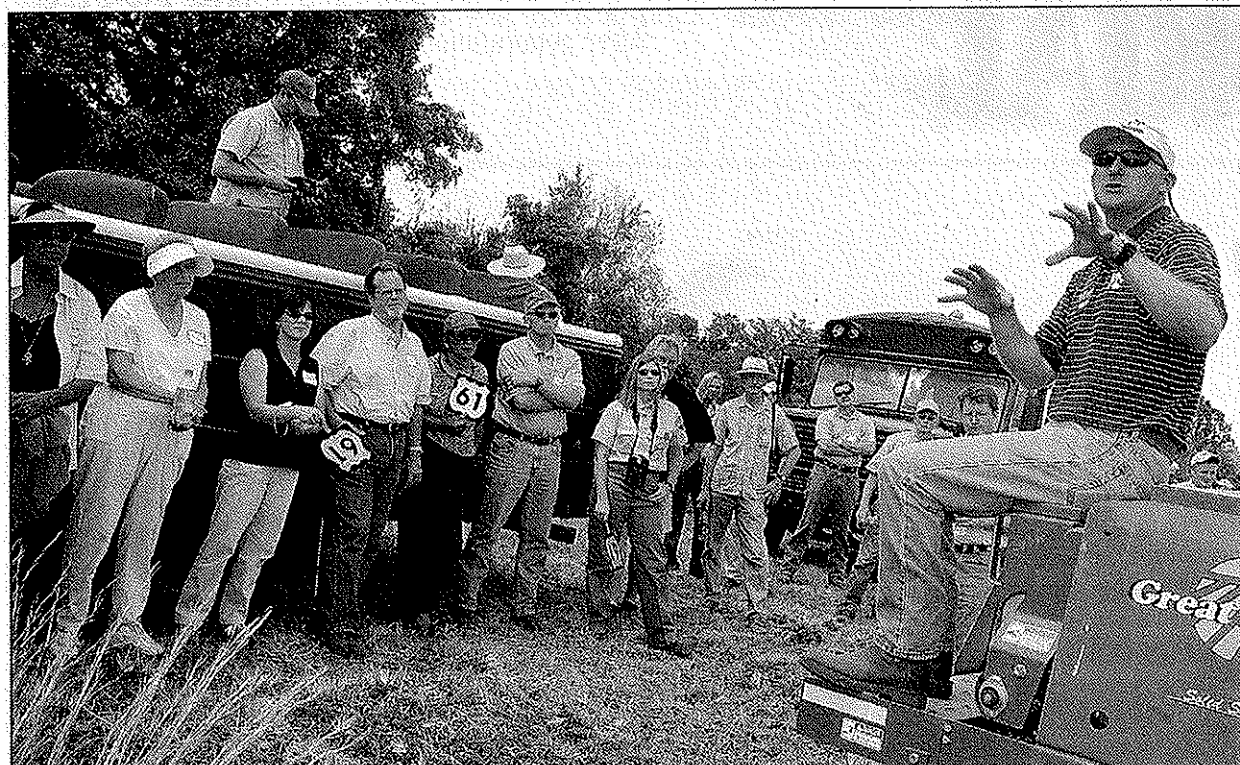


## A FOREST TOUR



REBECCA LATIMER • THE VICKSBURG POST

On a tour of a wildlife preserve in the Delta National Forest in Sharkey County Tuesday, extension specialist Adam Tullos of the Mississippi State Extension Service talks about agricultural land use for seasonal planting strategies. At right, agriculturalists and conservationists tour the property owned by former Vicksburg resident Jack Branning, front row right. The day also included a workshop at Mallard Lodge, which Branning owns along with about 2,500 acres in the forest. The workshop was organized by Dr. Daryl Jones of the Mississippi State Extension Service.



# Mississippi onto NRA-

By The Associated Press

A campaign by gun rights advocates to make it easier to use deadly force in self-defense is rapidly winning support across the country, as state after state makes legal for people who feel their lives are in danger to shoot down an attacker — whether in a car-jacking or just on the street. The law has spurred debate about whether it protects against lawlessness or spurs more crime. Supporters say it's an unambiguous answer to random violence, while critics including police chiefs and prosecutors — warn that criminals are more likely to benefit than innocent victims.

Ten states, including Mississippi so far this year have passed a version of the law, after Florida was the first last year. It's already been considered in Arizona in the case of a deadly shooting on a hiking trail. Supporters have dubbed the measures "stand your ground" laws, while critics offered names like the "shoot first," "shoot the Avon lady" or "right to commit murder" laws.

At its core, they broaden self-defense by removing the requirement in most states that a person who is attacked has a "duty to retreat" before turning to deadly force. Many of the laws specify that people can use deadly force if they believe they are in danger in a place they have a legal right to — a parking lot, a street, a bar, church. They also give immunity from criminal charges and civil liability.

The campaign is simply about self-defense, said Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin Calvey, a Republican and author of the law in his state. "Law-abiding citizens aren't going to take it anymore," he said.

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