The Alabama Forestry Association was formed in 1949 to represent the interests of the state’s sawmill companies and soon expanded to include forestry members from the stump to the mill. Today, AFA is a membership organization comprised of forest products companies, landowners, loggers, wood suppliers, foresters, and others with a stake in Alabama’s forest economy.

The Mission

AFA exists to maintain a favorable political, regulatory and legal environment for landowners to grow trees and forest business owners to manage their operations profitably and sustainably.

The Goal

AFA’s goal is to consistently increase the organization’s capacity and capabilities to exert a positive influence on the political, regulatory and legal processes at the local, state and federal level in order to accomplish the mission.

The Foundation

Core principles form the foundation upon which AFA’s ability to influence the process rests. Since its founding, the following core principles have guided AFA’s policy and programs.

1. Smaller, more efficient, less intrusive government.
2. Protection of private property rights.
3. Promotion of free markets and private contracts.
4. Preservation of the rule of law.

Areas of Influence

AFA influences the process in 4 areas, each of which must be strong in order to accomplish the mission.

1. Political - Candidate recruitment, funding and on-the-ground support.
2. Grassroots - Developing a broad and active network of all segments of forestry community.
3. Legal – Seeking available judicial remedies for unfavorable regulatory actions.

Outreach Programs

Outreach programs are the activities and communications of AFA most readily seen by many external audiences. AFA Outreach Programs are tightly focused on supporting the mission of the organization and include:

- Teacher Programs – Project Learning Tree (PLT), Teachers Conservation Workshop (TCW)
- Student Programs – Blackbelt Initiative, Architect Student Tour
- Landowner Programs – Tree Farm, On-line Education
- Logger Programs – Professional Logging Manager (PLM), Logger of the Year, Continuing Logger Education, On-line Education, Workforce Development.
- Industry Programs – Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Sawmill Audit Program, On-line Education, Wood Promotion, Workforce Development.
- Community Programs – Continuing Education for Attorneys, Accountants, Architects, and Real Estate Professionals.
- Communications – Alabama Forests, AFA Newsroom, Logger Notes, AFA News Release.

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Governance

AFA’s Board of Directors includes 5 officers, 10 District Directors, 10 At-Large Directors and 2 Ex-officio Directors.

Affiliated Organizations

- Alabama Loggers Council
- Alabama SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC)
- Alabama Tree Farm Committee
- Forest Fund (Self-insured Workers Compensation Fund)
- ForestPAC (State Political Action Committee)
- Alabama Forestry FedPAC (Federal Political Action Committee)
- Alabama Forestry Foundation (Forestry outreach & education)
- Alabama Forests Forever Foundation (Provides grants for forestry education programs)
- Alabama Log-a-Load for Kids Foundation (Charitable giving to Children's Hospital)
- Alabama Natural Resources Council (Coordinating council for natural resource agencies/organizations)

AFA Staff

- Chris Isaacson – Executive Vice-President
- Liz Chambers – Director of Administration
- Sam Duvall – Director of Communications
- Adam Easley – Controller
- Bill Harris – Director of Political Affairs
- Jena Hillman – Administrative Assistant
- Joel Moon – Executive Director – Alabama Loggers Council
- Leigh Peters – Director of Landowner Programs
- Jacquie Powell – Director of Membership
- Tom Saunders – General Counsel & Director of Governmental Affairs
- Tyler Sibley – Fisheries & Wildlife Biologist
- Ashley Smith – Director of Education / East Regional Coordinator
- Ashley Watts – Workforce Development Coordinator

Contact Information

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Web www.alaforestry.org

Forest Fund

- Boyd Kelly – President & Administrator
- Gordon M. (Mike) Moore – Vice President - Finance
- Kelly Daniels – Vice President – Underwriting

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