

10 THINGS AFA has done for its members lately...



1 Voice of Forestry – AFA’s primary focus in the 2019 first quarter was the work of the 92nd General Assembly. AFA advocates on behalf of the entire timber and forest products sector. During the session we worked to maintain a forestry representative on the Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission, protected our members against legislation that would have eliminated State Plant Board oversight of nursery operations; created burdensome environmental permit communication requirements; moved administration of state lands to the Land Commissioner; and worked with agriculture and business partners to support legislation to provide additional protections to landowners and consumers, as well as new business tax policy.

2 Building Relationships – Each regular legislative session, AFA coordinates a number of special programs with the support of a wide range of partners. For the 2019 session, AFA again created the ever-popular House and Senate Legislative Maps – 1,600 sets that are distributed to organizations all across the state, and hosted it’s third Forestry Day at the Capitol and legislative luncheon, which drew hundreds of participants. Forestry Day also includes forestry exhibits in the State Capitol rotunda, a seedling giveaway, a House Proclamation and a 75th birthday party for Smokey Bear.

3 Tackling Tough Issues – AFA was pleased to support the logging and forest landowner community in and around Lincoln County to develop win-win solutions to road damage issues. AFA joined an overflow crowd at a recent Lincoln Country Quorum Court meeting to voice concerns over a proposed permit and bonding ordinance on all loggers entering the County. Through the cooperative efforts of loggers, landowners and the County Judge, a set of requirements that better protect county roads while not overburdening loggers was developed.

4 Planning for today and tomorrow – The AFA staff recently completed its 2019 Plan of Work. The plan lays out a framework for the completion of AFA’s goals, objectives and program initiatives for the coming year. During the development process, the AFA staff evaluates every aspect of its work on behalf of the 1,100 members who invest their dues in the association, with an eye toward ensuring that everything we do fits into AFA’s Strategic Plan. AFA members deserve to be served by a process of continuous improvement and a high-value return on their investment.

5 Growing the Next Generation – AFA’s second Emerging Leaders Class of 13 young forestry professionals kicked off its two-year program in early March with an introduction to all things AFA. This next generation of forestry leaders will participate in a variety of forestry related tours, have the opportunity to interact with public policy leaders, become active in one or more AFA committees and create their own group priorities for leadership growth over the course of the next two years.

6 Making a Difference -- The Log A Load for Kids Program is community-based fundraising at its best., having raised over \$10 million for Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) since it started in 1993. The 2019 fundraising campaign kicked off March 1 at ACH, which combined a celebration of 2018’s donation of \$600,000 with the opportunity for LAL’s six Arkansas chapters to reveal plans for their special events this year. The Texarkana Log A Load for Kids chapter was the first to

hold a fundraiser on March 23 when 28 4-person teams enjoyed a day of trap and sporting clay shooting – all to benefit children in need of critical medical services.

7 Seasons of Change – Plans are underway to host representatives from all sectors of the timber and forest products community at the 74th AFA Annual meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock. The meeting will include recreational and social events, a forest management workshop and a day-long general session featuring topics on timber markets, changes within the pulp and paper sector, the National Woodland Owners Survey and more. We hope to see you at the 74th AFA Annual Meeting, October 8-10, 2018 in Little Rock!

8 Public Outreach Leadership –AFA staffers frequently represent the forestry sector at meetings, conference and speaking engagements across the state. We love being the Voice of Forestry in Arkansas. AFA recently presented comments at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Sector meeting on several important public policy issues; we exhibited at the Southern Sustainability Conference in Little Rock to share information on forestry’s sustainable forest message; continued our relationship building by exhibiting at the Arkansas County Judges Winter meeting in early February; provided an overview of AFA and summarized the early workings of the 92 Arkansas General Assembly to regional Resource Management Services managers and participated in the first Arkansas Forestry Commission’s State Forest Action Plan stakeholder meeting.

9 Family Forests – AFA is proud to administer the Tree Farm Program in Arkansas. Currently, there are 2,272 Tree Farms in the state representing 355,061 acres of certified timberland. The backbone of the program’s success is the team of volunteer inspectors who conduct site visits, work with landowners to develop or update forest management plans and help to ensure they are meeting the certification standards of the American Tree Farm System. The Arkansas Tree Farm program was recently recognized for having the National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, an award which was presented to Bill Chaney, of the Arkansas Forestry Commission at the American Forest Foundation’s National Tree Farm Leadership Conference in Louisville. The Tree Farm Committee recently selected the District-level Tree Farmers of the Year which will be recognized at the annual Tree Farmer Conference on May 17 in Fordyce.

10 Education in the Spotlight -- This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Project Learning Tree in Arkansas and in conjunction we are hosting the 33rd Annual International PLT Coordinators’ Conference in Little Rock on May 6-9. Over 120 PLT program coordinators, facilitators, steering committee members, and staff from National PLT and SFI, Inc. from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Japan are expected to be in attendance. Arkansas PLT has conducted 8 workshops training 223 formal and non-formal educators in the award-winning environmental education curriculum so far this year. The AFA Education Foundation (AFAEF) also presented at and/or participated in 14 classroom programs, camp programs, forestry contests, civic meetings, and community events reaching 557 students, 765 citizens, and 70 schools throughout Arkansas. The AFAEF continues to provide informational and educational meetings on a variety of topics and issues to forest landowners and managers across the state. To date, AFAEF has reached 1,248 participants representing over 48,500 forested acres across the region.

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