The Forest Meets the Government at Forestry Day at the Capitol

On Tuesday, January 22 forestry representatives from around the state gathered at the Arkansas State Capitol for the third Forestry Day at the Capitol.

The Arkansas Forestry Association, set up a booth along with groups like the Arkansas Forestry Commission, ArborGen, Domtar, Green Bay Packaging, West Fraser, Kingwood Forestry, University of Arkansas at Monticello College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Arkansas Timber Producers Association. Each group gathered on the second floor rotunda to share information about the forestry industry in Arkansas with guests and legislators. Around 10:30 that morning, those at the event celebrated the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear.

After eating lunch with both House and Senate members, guests gathered in the gallery of the House of Representatives to listen as Representative Ken Bragg presented House Resolution 1004, which recognized and celebrated Arkansas Forestry Day at the State Capitol.

“I spent about 45 years working in the forest industry, so I wanted to bring recognition of the economic importance of this industry to the legislature,” Bragg said.

The resolution passed unanimously when voted upon and Bragg said he heard plenty of positive reactions from other legislators on the House floor. Bragg added that an event like this is very important to the forestry industry, stating that it is a major contributor to the economy in terms of

92nd AR General Assembly Begins

By: Max Braswell

The session convened on January 14 with its usual array of new faces, but with Republicans still holding a significant majority of the seats in both the House of Representatives and Senate. Republicans hold a 76-24 advantage in the House, while in the Senate the margin is 26-9 - both margins unchanged from the 2017 session. Both the House and Senate will operate with new leadership this session as Rep. Matthew Shepherd, R-El Dorado, was elected for his first term as Speaker of the House, and Jim Hendren, R-Gravette, was previously elected by his Senate colleague to serve as President of the Senate. Upon his election, Speaker Shepherd announced the roster of Committee Chairs as well as the members of each House committee. This selection process is new to the House due to the passage of legislation in the last session that allows the Speaker of the House to appoint and confirm all representatives to committees.

Senator John Cooper - R, Jonesboro, will chair the Senate Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Develop Committee, while Rep. Dan Douglas - R, Bentonville, will again serve as the chair of the House Agriculture Committee. For a complete list of committee chairs and members, you can visit the General Assembly website

AFA Members Win Awards, Appointed to State Board

Multiple members of the Arkansas Forestry Association recently made news, some winning awards and others appointed to state boards.

Larry Nance (left), OSAF Chair, presents the Ted Chancey Career Forester Award to Karl Hansen.

At a recent meeting of the Ouachita Society of American Foresters, AFA board members Karl Hansen and Matt Pelkki received awards. Hansen, the Arkansas manager for Resource Management Service, received the Ted Chancey Career Forester award, honoring his long-time achievements in forestry and service to the Society of American Foresters.

Dr. Pelkki, professor and holder of the George Clippert Chair at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, received the Outstanding Forestry Educator Award.

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson recently appointed David Smith, also an AFA board member, to a five year term on the Arkansas Board of Registration for Foresters (ABORF). Smith is the Vice President of Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas and succeeds Carroll Guffey on the board.

Hutchinson also appointed David Powell of Paragould to the ABORF. His term will last until 2023. He replaces Damon Daniels.
Last month we revealed our 2019 officers and executive committee members. This month, we want to introduce you to our Board of Directors. Our Board Orientation event is scheduled to take place February 15 at 10 a.m. at the AFA office.

**Arkansas Forestry Association**  
Board of Directors for 2019

-Bill Abernathy - Optimum Forestry Inc.  
-Aubra Anthony Jr. - Anthony Family Property Holdings  
-John Ed Anthony - Anthony Timberlands Inc.  
-Steve Anthony - Anthony Timberlands Inc.  
-Steve Barham - Canfor Southern Pine, Inc.  
-Allen Bedell - Circle B Logging  
-James Bibler - Retired, Bibler Lumber Co.  
-Tim Bitely - Clearview Forestry, Inc.  
-Ken Bragg - AR House of Representatives  
-Brett Bray - Conifex  
-David Brazeale - Brazeale Lumber  
-Dru Burford - Georgia-Pacific Corp.  
-David Cassels - BTG Pactual  
-David Cawein - Green Bay Packaging Inc.  
-Mary Clapp - Stevens Forestry  
-Peggy Clark - Clark Timberlands  
-John Cook - AR Forestry Commission  
-Mike Cooley - Weyerhaeuser Co.  
-Tom Crowder - Bragg Land Co.  
-Bryan Davis - Davis DuBose Forestry Consultants  
-Ray Dillon - Dillon Consulting  
-Jody Doak - Highland-Pellets  
-Brad Dreyer - Molpus Woodlands Group  
-Mary Elizabeth Eldridge - The Ross Foundation  
-Thomas Faust - Faust Band Sawmill  
-Joe Fox - AR Forestry Commission  
-Terry Freeman - Freeman Companies  
-Joe Friend - UAPB - Keep It In the Family  
-Ed Givens - Landowner  
-Glenn Gray - Georgia-Pacific Corp.  
-Robert Gray - PotlatchDeltic Corp.  
-John Grigsby - Toler Lumber  
-Doug Grimmert - Retired, Larson & McGowin Inc.  
-Caroll Guffey - Landowner  
-Jim Guldin - U.S. Forest Service  
-Tim Hahn - West Fraser, Inc.  
-Cherie Hamilton - Ozark-St. Francis NF  
-Karl Hansen - Resource Management Service  
-Greg Hay - Nutrien Ag Solutions  
-Robert Head - IberiaBank  
-John Hearnsberger - Landowner  
-Jim Hefley - Clark Timberlands  
-Darwin Hendrix - Landowner/Banker  
-Ryan Hendrix - Green Bay Packaging Inc.  
-Van Hendry - Hendry Hardwoods  
-Tony Hogue - Clearwater Paper  
-Mark Karnes - Ross Foundation  
-Tim Kibe - Green Bay Packaging Inc.  
-Miles Lacy - Retired, Green Bay Packaging Inc.  
-Shannon Lassiter - ARK-LA Timber Harvesting  
-Rex Lawrence - Lawrence Land & Timber  
-Raven Lawson - Central Arkansas Water  
-Ernest Lovett - Retired, Larson & McGowin Inc.  
-Tom Lowrimore - Interfor Corp.  
-John McAlpine - Kingwood Forestry Services  
-Don McElroy - Anthony Timberlands Inc.  
-John McEntire  
-Kent Mikkelson - Evergreen Packaging, Inc.  
-Scott Milburn - Retired, PotlatchDeltic Corp.  
-Douglas Miller - Weyerhaeuser Co.  
-Allen Morgan - Hunter-Wasson  
-Robert Murphy - AR Forestry Commission  
-Larry Nance - Ozark Forest Management Services  
-John David Neeley - Neeley Forestry  
-Chris Nelson - PotlatchDeltic Corp.  
-Ricky O’Neill - Neeley Forestry Service  
-Robert Parkes - Parkes Cattle Co., Inc.  
-Roland Partain - Anthony Timberlands Inc.  
-Ron Pearce  
-Matt Pelkki - School of Forestry & Natural Resources  
-Mike Pennington - L.D. Long, Inc.  
-Joe Pokorny - Molpus Woodlands Group  
-Pete Prutzman - Kingwood Forestry  
-Charles Purtle - Landowner  
-George Rheinhardt - NRCS  
-Steve Richardson - Richardson Wood Co.  
-Rick Rodenroth - Domtar Industries  
-Scott Rowland - Neill Forestry  
-Ray Seymour - Drax Biomass, Inc.  
-David Smith - Farm Credit Services of Western AR  
-Mack Smith - Idaho Timber  
-Derrick Spinks - Ridgewood Timber  
-Phil Tappe - School of Forest Resources  
-Bobby Taylor - Shelby Taylor Trucking  
-Clark Tennysen - Clark Timberlands  
-Norman Wagoner - Ouachita NF  
-John Wainscott - Retired, Weyerhaeuser Co.  
-R.V. Warner  
-Tammy Waters - Domtar Industries  
-Bruce Westerman - U.S. Industries, 4th District  
-Ross Whipple - Whipple Family Lands  
-Guy Wilkinson - International Paper  
-Frank Wilson - Wilson Bros.  
-Harrell Wilson - Tri-W Logging  
-Rodney Wishard - Larson & McGowin  
-Jim Woodruff - Landowner  

**Honorary Board Members:**  
-John W. Gann - Landowner  
-Thomas McGill - Landowner
Forestry Day at the Capitol, con’t.

Arkansas. We have an abundant, renewable natural resource, and great potential for expanded economic development of these resources.”

The Arkansas Forestry Association would like to thank everyone who attended. You can find more photos of the event on our Facebook page at facebook.com/arkforests.

General Assembly Begins, con’t.

At www.arkleg.state.ar.us and click on “Committees”.

Week one of the Governor Asa Hutchinson's second term provided him the opportunity to reiterate his priorities for the session beginning with his swearing in ceremony and an address to a joint session of the House and Senate on January 15. During the joint session, Hutchinson touted a number of accomplishment during his first four-year term, sharing the credit with members of the legislature. Job creation, moving people out of poverty, reforming the state's Medicaid and criminal justice systems, investment in technology education, reducing the size and increasing the efficiency of state government and, especially, cutting taxes for the middle and lower income brackets painted a positive picture of what Arkansas has to offer, the Governor said. He then transitioned into his "growth agenda" for the state and how that could be accomplished with the help of the 92nd General Assembly and an attitude of "it can be done."

Among the Governor’s priorities for the session is the implementation of the third phase of tax cuts - this time one that reduces the highest marginal tax rate from the current 6.9% down to at least 5.9% over several years. Expect the income tax rate, and several other priority tax initiatives derived from the Governor’s Tax Reform and Relief Task Force, which worked the past two years on recommendations, to be a focal point of the session. In addition, Hutchinson urged legislators to embrace his plan to transform state government, find a solution for transportation and highway funding, and raise starting teacher salaries by at least $4,000 over the next four years.

AFA’s focus is on HB 1117, one of multiple state government transformation bills sponsored by Rep. Andy Davis, R – Little Rock, that would reduce agencies reporting to the governor from 42 to 15. HB 1117 would transfer various state agencies and establish the cabinet-level department of Agriculture, which would include the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The bill will eventually be included in one very large transformation bill.

AFA’s Executive Committee has reviewed the bill in detail and recently sent a letter to Amy Fecher, Governor Hutchinson’s Chief Transformation Officer, outlining several recommendations to improve the bill. Our primary request was to maintain the position on the Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission currently filled by the State Forester. The original bill language replaced that position with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, leaving no forestry expertise on the Commission. AFA supports the inclusion of the Secretary on PC&E, but we do not want to lose forestry representation. Since relaying our concerns, the State Forester has been returned to the list of Commission members. However, negotiations are still ongoing and we’ll need to stay vigilant. You can see the list of proposed PC&E Commission members in a related transformation bill – HB 1215.

Calendar of Events

February 8
9 a.m. - PLT & Project WILD Environmental Education Workshop
Donald W. Reynolds YMCA of Warren & Bradley County
Warren

February 13
10 a.m. - Program Committee Meeting
AFA Offices
Little Rock

February 14
9:45 a.m. - Learn to Burn: An Introduction to Prescribed Fire for Landowners
4-H Center
Malvern

February 15
10 a.m. - AFA Board Orientation
AFA Offices
Little Rock

March 5
10 a.m. - Government Affairs Committee Meeting
AFA Offices
Little Rock

March 8
10 a.m. - ELP Meeting: AFA 101
AFA Offices
Little Rock

May 24
6:10 p.m. - AFA Night at the Travs Dickey-Stephens Park
Little Rock

Please Note:
For meetings that are held at the AFA Office, please park on the street or in one of the area lots -- do not park in the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce parking lot.
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