July 2018

AFA Member J.D. Neeley Appointed To Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

On July 2, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed AFA Member J.D. Neeley to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC). He will replace Steve Cook, the former chair of the commission, whose term expired July 1.

Neeley said when her first heard that he would be appointed, he felt a deep gratitude to the governor for entrusting him with an important position for the state’s wildlife conservation. The new commissioner is the president of Nelley Forestry Service and principal broker for United Country Real Estate.

His experience also includes serving as a general appraiser specializing in timberland, pasture land and recreational properties for 25 years. Neeley said the concept of service has always been a part of his heart and being able to give back to the community is something his is very passionate about.

“People come...and people go, but the great work and mission of the AGFC will be ongoing for generations,” Neeley said. “My goals are to help support and serve with the people within this organization who are so very passionate about their work and it’s impact on our wildlife and its natural resources. We also are in a very good time where all of the natural resource conservation partners such as Arkansas Forestry Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Natural Heritage, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and many more are

Ballots Available For AFA Board

The Arkansas Forestry Association’s annual board of directors’ election is now open.

Members of AFA will select the leadership of the forest industry’s oldest and largest association in Arkansas. We hope you will take some time to consider those running for a seat on the board and cast your vote between now and August 8.

Ballots are available online at https://tinyurl.com/AFA2019. If you would like a paper ballot, you can call the AFA office at (501)374-2441. Please only submit one ballot per member. There are 75 candidates. Please vote for no more than 40. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@arkforests.org.

Third, Final TCT Workshop Coming In November

Summertime brings a break from school, vacation with family, and cooling off with friends at the local pool or lake. It is also time for the AFA Education Foundation to conduct their Teacher Conservation Tour Workshop Series. The third and final workshop is coming up and there is still space available.

It will be held November 1-2 in White Hall, Arkansas. Session 3, titled Pine to Power, will focus on the biomass energy market and how Arkansas timber is being grown to feed the international wood pellet industry. This session will include tours of the Highland Pellet Mill and Weyerhaeuser forestland to view sustainable forestry practices in action. Visit www.arkforests.org/page/TCT for more details.

Over the past few months, AFAEF completed two of the three Teacher Conservation Tour Workshops – one on June 14-15 in Monticello and the second June 28-29 in Ft. Smith. A total of 35 educators participated in the two events.

Session 1: Technology in the Forest focused on technological advances in the field of forestry. Educators learned about GIS/GPS, online mapping programs, surveying skills, drone technology, forestry tools and apps, and computerized logging equipment. These two days were split between the School of Forestry and Natural Resources on the University of Arkansas Monticello campus in Monticello and visiting sites in the field around Camden. Presentations were provided by Dr. John Dennis, UAM SFNR, Daniel Neeley, Neeley Forestry Services, Josh Smith, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Jerry McCluskey, Stribbling Equipment of Camden.

Ballots for the 2019 AFA Board of Directors

Please see the attached table for the list of candidates. You may vote for up to 40 candidates. Your completed ballot must be in the AFA office no later than 5:00 pm CDT on August 8, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Johnson</td>
<td>AFA</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn McGehee</td>
<td>AFA</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Dennis</td>
<td>UAM SFNR</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Neeley</td>
<td>Nelley Forestry Services</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Smith</td>
<td>NRCS</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry McCluskey</td>
<td>Stribbling Equipment</td>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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In the past few months, the Arkansas Forestry Association welcomed two new employees including a new administrative assistant and a communications coordinator.

Mary Spradlin, our new administrative assistant, joined the association in April. Born in Southern Louisiana, Spradlin worked with various companies here in Arkansas when she moved in the 90’s.

Not too long ago, her husband retired but she wasn’t ready too. She found AFA and said she is a serving person and this position was right up her alley.

“I wanted to broaden my horizons and do something meaningful,” Spradlin said.

She currently lives in Ferndale with her husband, John, three dogs, Dottie, Ginger, and T.J., and cat, Charlie.

This month, AFA welcomed its new communications coordinator, Seth Stephenson. He and his fiancé, Lindsey, working together. Over 57% of our state is non-industrial private landowners. I hope to see continued improvement in the forestry, wildlife management and conservation practices on these lands."

During the appointment, Governor Hutchinson said Neeley has shown a commitment to serving others through his past work. He added that Neeley’s experience as a businessman and his knowledge of the land as a forester, an appraiser, and a realtor will make him a valuable member of the AGFC.

"I have spent a career in forestry, and I understand that good forestry is good wildlife management," Neeley said. "With a healthy forest, we can have healthy wildlife. I want us to continue to work with private landowners, to expand good management and good wildlife practice. But our children are our most valuable resource. We have got to bring the next generation into the outdoors. We are losing touch with the outdoors."

Neeley’s term will expire July 1, 2025.

Are you receiving your weekly enewsletter? If not, AFA may not have your correct email address. Please email Mary Spradlin at mspradlin@arkforests.org with your updated information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 4
5 p.m. - Drew County Log A Load Dinner and Auction
Pauline Baptist Church
Monticello

August 9
10 a.m. - Executive Committee
AFA Office
Little Rock

August 28
6 p.m. - Hunting Leases & Landowner Liability Workshop
Fordyce Civic Center
Fordyce

August 28
10 a.m. - Forest Protection Committee
AFA Office
Little Rock

August 29
10 a.m. - Tree Farm Committee
AFA Office
Little Rock

September 11
9 a.m. - Forest Management/BMP Workshop & Tour
UA Livestock & Research Station
Batesville

October 2-4
AFA Annual Meeting
Hot Springs

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.
Session 2:
Woods and Wildlife focused on Arkansas wildlife species and their habitat needs. Educators learned about Arkansas Black Bears, Whitetail Deer, Bobwhite Quail, Wild Turkeys, and Feral Hogs. Workshop participants made plaster casts of tracks, saw a demonstration of a feral hog corral trap equipped with remote gate release, and made their own slate turkey call. The U.S. Forest Service provided a show and tell of prescribe fire and wildland firefighting equipment and showcased several forest stand improvement sites within the Ozark National Forest. Presentations were provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, and the US Forest Service.

Photos of these two TCT Workshops (and other AFA events) can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/arkforests/albums.


Green Bay Packaging To Expand Pinecrest Sawmill

On June 22, Green Bay Packaging Vice President and General Manager David Cawein announced an expansion to the Pinecrest Lumber Mill.

“This expansion at our Pinecrest Sawmill demonstrates Green Bay Packaging’s commitment to our people, central Arkansas, and our customers,” Cawein said. “The additional production will use company owned and grown timber as well as logs from our private landowner partners, enabling us to provide additional lumber for our growing customer base.”

The Menifee-based mill is expected to see a few dozen more jobs when the expansion is completed around the summer of 2019. The company has contracted with Crow Construction based in Morrilton to complete the design and construction of various projects. In a release from Crow Construction, those projects include the relocation of an existing maintenance shop, site preparation as well as installation of a new dry kiln and the addition of a new administrative office building.

Menifee Mayor Lee Smith said, “We are glad to be working with Pinecrest Lumber to move the expansion forward and we are excited about the potential for new job opportunities for the citizens of Menifee.”

The release states the centerpiece of the project will be increasing the mill’s drying capacity with the new dry kiln. The company will be able to add a second sift in the sawmill and planner mill with the increase. The company assured people that the plant will remain in operation during construction with minimal interruption to production.

“We are excited to have been selected by Green Bay Packaging to expand the mill in Menifee,” Crow Construction President Brian Rohlman said. “Our engineering and design team has enjoyed collaborating with the team at Pinecrest to develop a plan and our construction team has already started working on the first phase of the project. This project marks the beginning of a great local partnership between our two companies and will have a significant impact on future employment opportunities in Conway County.”

AFA October Annual Meeting Registration Open

Registration has begun for the Arkansas Forestry Association’s 73rd Annual Meeting in Hot Springs. The meeting will be held on October 2-4.

The goal is to bring people and organizations together from all sectors of the forest products industry in Arkansas.

This year the conference will be taking place at the Hotel Hot Springs & Spa and the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Those who attend this year’s conference will have the opportunity to learn more about Arkansas Agriculture Department’s programs, the new PotlatchDeltic Corporation, new SFI initiatives, public policy and the history of forestry here in Arkansas.

For more information or to register for the conference, please visit the AFA website at www.arkforests.org. Registration is available until September 28.

AFA has received a special group room-rate at the Hotel Hot Springs & Spa. To receive the group rate you must make reservations by August 31.

Please note that changes have been made to this year’s program that will impact the number of CFE hours offered. For those who require CFE’s please be aware of this in advance and plan accordingly.

If you have any questions, you can contact Jennifer Johnson through email at jjohnson@arkforests.org or by phone at (501)374-2441.
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