For their third official gathering, Arkansas Forestry Association’s Emerging Leaders learned what it takes to make paper out of trees at Green Bay Packaging’s (GBP) Kraft Mill near Morrilton.

Ten of the leaders gathered July 11 to witness this process. With the assistance of GBP’s own Doug Shay and Larissa Kelsey, the group saw many facets of the operation from receiving the chips to winding the linerboard into huge rolls.

“I have never really thought about the process of how a tree starts as a seedling and then is turned into a usable product,” Emerging Leader Rachael Godwin said. “It is great to see how timber is used to make it into [something] for consumers.”

The meeting will start as usual, with trap shooting and golf. The shooting will cost $60 and will take place at the Mountain Valley Sportsman Association in the Hot Springs area. For golf this year, we will be at the Chenal Country Club in Little Rock.

Arkansas forestry has seen a lot of change during the year and what comes next for one of the state’s largest industries will be the topic of discussion at this year’s Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting.

For the 74th meeting, AFA members will gather at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock from October 8 – 10. Registration costs $175 for members and $215 for non-members until September 10. After that, it will cost members $225 and non-members $265.

This year’s theme is Seasons of Change. Our General Session speakers will address some of the changes that have already taken place, and some we could expect to see in the future. Governor Asa Hutchinson will serve as the session’s keynote speaker and discuss his plan to restructure state government in Arkansas. State Forester Joe Fox will head up a “Forests for the Future” panel discussion that will explore several new initiatives and challenges, including how to attract the next generation of forest leaders. These are only a few of the speakers attendees will hear from this year.

The meeting will start with trap shooting and golf. The shooting will cost $60 and will take place at the Mountain Valley Sportsman Association in the Hot Springs area. For golf this year, we will be at the Chenal Country Club in Little Rock.
AFA Education Foundation Provides Firsthand Forestry Education

By: Rob Beadel

This year marked the 26th Anniversary of the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation’s (AFAEF) Teacher Conservation Tour (TCT). The AFAEF, along with partners from our forestry community, including forestry professionals, timber producers, and forest product manufacturers from across the state have been providing this professional development workshop for Arkansas educators since 1993.

The TCT has become one of the premier natural resources professional development opportunities for licensed educators and the only forestry-specific training in the state.

On May 28-29, nineteen formal and non-formal educators participated in a Prescribed Fire Workshop at Central Arkansas Water’s Forest Legacy Farm. This workshop was a partnership with Central Arkansas Water and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to teach the importance and benefits of prescribed fire as a forest management tool. Workshop participants learned about the history and science of prescribed fire, fire weather, tools, and equipment used in the process, and what goes into planning and conducting a safe prescribed fire. On the next page are some of the comments from educators who attended the workshop.

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Rocky Goodnow to Address Timber Markets at AFA Annual Meeting

Goodnow will be speaking on timber markets during AFA's Annual Meeting General Session on Oct. 9.

Goodnow is the primary author of FEA’s Timber Quarterly Forecasting Service publications and contributes to other publications and studies done by the organization. Before working at FEA, Goodnow was a key contributor to the analysis and production of RISI’s North American Timber Forecast. He also co-authored numerous studies on a wide range of timber-related topics, including regional pulpwood studies and an assessment of North America’s emerging biomass industry.

Goodnow will be speaking at the General Session on October 9. To hear from him and other speakers, you can register for the event at arkforests.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 3
5 p.m. - Drew County Log a Load for Kids Event
Pauline Baptist Church
Monticello

August 21
9 a.m. - Estate Planning Workshop for Forest Landowners
Dudeck Law Firm
Conway

September 2
AFA Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 4
10 a.m. - Program Committee Meeting
AFA Office
Little Rock

September 7
5 p.m. - Central Arkansas Log a Load for Kids Event
Sheridan High School Cafeteria
Sheridan

September 10
10 a.m. - Executive Committee Meeting
AFA Office
Little Rock

September 14
6 p.m. - Bradley County Log a Load for Kids Event
Immanuel Baptist Church
Warren

September 20
9 a.m. - Timber Tax Workshop
The Vines Center
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.

Educators watch as prescribed fire professionals explain the various tools used during a burn.
Annual Meeting Registration, con’t.

Located in the hills of Chenal Valley, are the Founders Course and the Bear Den Course. Both are highly recognized Robert Trent Jones, Jr. Championship golf courses. The cost to play golf will be $90.

There are multiple ways to register for the meeting. You can register online at arkforests.org by clicking on the event in the calendar. Printed registration forms will be mailed out in early August.

Forestry Education con’t.

On June 13-14, the AFAEF hosted Session 2 of our Teacher Conservation Tour: Logs to Lumber. Course participants learned about sustainable forestry, forestry tools and technology, economic impacts of the forest industry to Arkansas, and Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat restoration projects. The group also had the opportunity to tour PotlatchDeltic’s dimensional lumber sawmill in Warren and the Maxwell Hardwood Flooring Mill in Monticello. Here are some comments from educators in that workshop:

- The field time was most enjoyable and informative. The PotlatchDeltic team was very enthusiastic and welcoming.
- I value the experience to see processes from beginning to end. I value the curriculum and resources to make a more authentic experience.
- The tours of the mills and forest logging sites were very interesting and educational.

These TCT workshops provide information and resources on the environmental, ecological, and economic benefits of Arkansas’s forestlands. Educators learn firsthand about the various aspects of our forests: trees, wildlife, water quality protection, forest health, forestry careers, and the economic impacts of the forest industry to the state.

You can view photos from this year’s TCT workshops on our AFA/AFAEF Facebook page.

Emerging Leaders Tour, con’t.

Our leaders come from different areas of the forestry industry. Seeing a mill like the one in Morrilton was a new experience for many of them. Some said tours like this help them further understand what it takes to create items we use daily, while others said it would help them in their everyday job responsibilities.

“Being as I am a GBP forester, anytime I can learn more about how what we do in the woods impacts the needs of our facilities helps me to be a better supplier to our manufacturers,” Emerging Leader Jason Warner said. “Being able to interact with other members of the [GBP] family is always a treat as we consider ourselves all important in our rolls for helping to provide our customers with the best quality product.”

One of the aspects of the mill that surprised many of the leaders was how smooth everything operated. During the tour, they saw some of the control rooms where mill workers monitor data. The group said it was impressive how attentive those employees had to be to make sure nothing failed.

After the tour, everyone gathered to discuss what their thoughts were on what they saw as well as what they hope to see at future events. Some of the topics covered in that conversation included recent developments in the industry and GBP history.

For the remainder of the year, the emerging leaders are scheduled to meet at AFA’s Annual Meeting in October, then tour the Tree Farm of the Year. These events will round out the first year of the two-year program.
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