Bill Chaney is the first Arkansan to be awarded the National Tree Farm Inspector award, which was announced at a Kentucky conference in late February.

Chaney is a Forester II with the Arkansas Agriculture Department – Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC). During his 28-year career, he has served as District Chair and as Tree Farm Committee Chair in 2011-2012. While at the National Tree Farm Leadership Conference, Chaney was awarded the 2019 National Outstanding Inspector of the Year. Chaney said he was speechless when he found out he was just a nominee back in November 2018.

“What I do for the landowners in Arkansas is for them, it’s not for my recognition,” Chaney said. “Everything I do is for them.”

Chaney never expected to receive an award like this during his time as a Tree Farm inspector. He said he was raised to do things right and to do the best he could. Chaney was one of four Regional Inspector of the Year award winners in consideration for the national award. As he accepted the award, Chaney thanked God for putting him where he was today. He also thanked his wife and coworkers.

“Bill is the epitome of the ideal Tree Farm inspector,” said Jennifer Johnson, Administrator of the Arkansas Tree Farm Program. “He works with landowners on identifying their goals, promotes sustainable forestry and the Tree Farm Program. His dedication has positively impacted not only thousands of acres of timberland in the state, but those who own and manage them as well.”

AFA Executive Committee Members Appointed to AFC

The end of February, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed two Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Executive Committee members to the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Steven Anthony, of Fordyce, joined the commission and replaced Sam Snead. His appointment will end in January 2024. Allen Bedell, of Hot Springs, was reappointed to the commission and his appointment will expire in January 2028.

Both men have experience with the commission. Bedell was first appointed in 2001 and was a former chairman. Anthony served from 2000-2009 and was also Chairman of the Commission from 2006-2007.

“As a result, I am familiar with the operations of the commission and the role it plays both with respect to the forest products industry and to the citizens of the State in general,” Anthony said. “Many of the staff remain from my previous term on the commission and I have known the Chief Forester, Joe Fox, for many years. As a result, I have great confidence that

Tickets Available for Third Annual AFA Night with the Travs

Come spend the evening with the Arkansas Forestry Association and the Arkansas Travelers on May 24. Tickets are now available for AFA Night with the Travs. Each ticket not only gets you admission to the game against the Springfield Cardinals, but it also gives you access to unlimited food and soft drinks.

Tickets cost $10 for each person over three years old. Those three years old and younger are free. Tickets must be purchased by May 17. The game starts at 7:10 p.m. that night. Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be served starting at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets can be purchase for $10 for each person over three years old at arkforests.org.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking the in the bottom right hand corner at arkforests.org.

Chaney stands on stage with the Wesley R. Meier 2019 National Inspector of the Year Award.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson appointed Steve Anthony (left) and Allen Bedell (right) to serve on the Arkansas Forestry Commission Board of Commissioners.
AR Log a Load for Kids Chapters Gather to Kickoff 2019 Events

On March 1, the six chapters of the Log a Load for Kids of Arkansas gathered at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock to kickoff the year of giving.

In 2017, Arkansas committed to raising $1.5 million to fund a cardiothoracic surgery endowment. By meeting this goal, the group will break $10 million raised for Log a Load since starting in 1993.

Events for the 2019-year have already begun with the Texarkana chapter holding a Sporting Clays Tournament and Trap Shoot Fundraiser. Look for a story on that event in April's edition of Tree Talk. Right now, all but one of the chapters have their events scheduled. The next event takes place on June 6 with the South Central chapter's golf tournament and then their dinner and auction on June 8. Then, Drew County will host their dinner and auction on August 3 followed by the Central Arkansas chapter’s event on September 7. Bradley County has yet to announce a date for their Log a Load event.

This year we hope you will help all chapters of Log a Load for Kids break their $10 million goal and fulfill their commitment to fund the cardiothoracic surgery endowment. For more information on the events, look for them on the Events Calendar at arkforests.org.

District Tree Farmers of the Year Announced

Every year, the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award highlights private landowners that have not only done an exceptional job of forest management on their property, but have also actively promoted sustainable forestry.

The purpose of this award is to:

- Promote sustainable forest management
- Recognize outstanding Tree Farmers and the foresters who work with them
- Inspire other landowners to manage their land for good stewardship
- Engage candidates in efforts to influence legislation affecting private forest owners, where applicable

Regional finalists for the Arkansas Tree Farmer of the Year Award were recently selected. Nominations were received from Tree Farm inspectors around the state, then reviewed and voted upon at a March Tree Farm Committee meeting.

Each district award winner will be nominated for the state-level Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award. The state winner will then be nominated for the National Tree Farmer of the Year award, which is selected by the American Tree Farm System.

This year’s district winners are:

- David & Susan Brown, District 1
- Darrell Oglesby, District 2
- David Rodgers, District 3
- The Smith Family, District 5
- Ron Bell, District 8
- University of Arkansas Livestock and Forestry Research Station, District 8 (Non-profit)

The district awards will be presented to the winners at the 2019 Tree Farmer Conference on Friday, May 17 at the Fordyce Civic Center in Fordyce. The state award will be presented at the Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting that takes place early October in 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.
Eleven future leaders of the Arkansas Forestry Association met for the first time March 8 in Little Rock as the second class of the AFA Emerging Leaders Program (ELP).

The class of 2020 consists of 14 young professionals from various organizations in the forestry industry. The first thing the class did together was learn more about AFA. The group heard from Max Braswell, Seth Stephenson, Jennifer Johnson and Rob Beadel who explained their roles with the association.

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed to introduce young professionals in the forestry industry to other aspects of it they may not otherwise see. The students will spend the two years they are in the program traveling to locations that could include mills, nurseries and tree farms to see what it takes to make some of the products we use on a daily basis.

They will also have the opportunity to learn how to teach environmental education through Project Learning Tree, speak with legislative staff on laws that affect forestry and speak to a professor on the economics of the industry. AFA hopes once these young professionals finish the program they will become leaders in forestry for years to come.

“I am very excited to learn along with our new ELP class,” ELP Coordinator Seth Stephenson said. “I hope the events I have planned for the next few years will give them a bigger picture on what goes on with all facets of forestry.”

During their first meeting, everyone was very eager and excited to learn more outside of their work environment.

The class is scheduled to meet again in May as they tour a Weyerhaeuser nursery in Magnolia.

Approximately 55 years ago on Arkansas State HWY 7 near Hollis, and about 15 miles north of Jessieville there was a stand alone short leaf pine tree that Dierks Timber, now known as Weyerhaeuser, had fenced off. To my recollection and memory the pine tree was noted as the straightest tree in Arkansas! Unfortunately, lightning, disease or wind eventually took down this magnificent pine tree. - Larry Neuhart, Neuhart Financial Fitness & Properties, Inc.

Pecan. My parents had a few pecans on their place. We had a great time picking them up in the fall and shelling them when it was cold while we all sat in the kitchen. - Mary Totaro, Private Landowner

Keep watching for next month’s AFA publications to see our next question and your answer could be in May’s Tree Talk or in one of the various editions of e-news for that month.
TRUSTED LENDER FOR THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

• Local, experienced employees who specialize in timber and forestry.
• Long-term, fixed rates.
• Loans customized to individual needs.

myaglender.com

David Smith
VP Sales Timber/Forestry
870-246-8061

Rachael Godwin
Vice President
870-246-8061

Denise Sweat
Regional VP
870-845-2221

FARM CREDIT OF WESTERN ARKANSAS