Deadlines Approaching for Cheaper Registration, AFA Hotel Room Rate

The Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) wants to remind you to register for our 77th Annual Meeting and 75th Anniversary celebration that will take place in just under two months. You can register online or via our printed registration form, which was mailed out to all AFA members. If you did not receive one or would like another sent to you, please contact the AFA office at (501) 374-2441. You can sign-up online at arkforests.org/event/2022AnnualMeeting.

Please keep in mind that if you register after September 3, there will be a $50 late fee for both members and non-members. AFA staff has deadlines to meet with the venues we use for our meetings. Late registrations can add stress to the staff and costs to the association.

If you would like to stay at the DoubleTree, where most of our meeting events are going to be held, you have until September 11 to reserve a room to get our special room rate. For a single or double, it will only cost you $109. After that date, rooms may be available, but you will not get our special rate.

Along with these deadlines, we want to reiterate some important information for those joining us for our recreational activities. Golfers, we have an early tee time at the Chenal Country Club this year. We will get things going at 8:00 a.m., so we ask you all to be there and ready by that time. For our shooters, make sure that you bring two boxes of your own shells. If you have any questions, please call the AFA office.

Don’t forget that “Diamonds in the Outfield” tickets are still available at $50 each. You can purchase your chance at a $3,000 one-carat diamond necklace when you register or by visiting our online shop at tinyurl.com/DITOTicket. There are still about 20 tickets available. We will also have our gun drawing Wednesday night at the fish fry. More information on that will be available next month.

AFA is very excited to share with our members and friends all the exciting events we have planned for this historical landmark in our history. We know everyone will enjoy all the hard work and effort put in by our program committee to make this year special. We will see you all October 11-13 in Little Rock!
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS
September 5
AFA Office Closed
September 6
9:30 a.m. - Forest Protection Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock
September 14
10:00 a.m. - Long Range Implementation Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock
September 15
11:30 a.m. - Women Owning Woodland Lunch & Learn: Champion Trees in Arkansas
Zoom
September 20
10:00 a.m. - Government Affairs Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock
September 21
10:00 a.m. - Program Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock
September 23
11:30 a.m. - Landowner Zoom: Green Tree Reservoir Management
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

Please Note: Please visit our calendar at arkforests.org for information on the above Zoom meetings.

For meetings 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.

Speaker Spotlight Pt. 1, con’t
She has published more than 30 scientific articles, and her research involves economic issues in natural resource management. Currently, her ongoing research focuses on economic analysis of forest sectors, with particular emphasis on the implementation of ecosystem services, as well as sustainable natural resource-based economic development.

William J. O’Brien IV, RDIV Renewables Resource Development
William J. O’Brien IV is the Chairman & CEO of RDIV Renewables Resource Development. As a local entrepreneur in the Ark-La-Tex region from Shreveport, LA, William has a diverse background in Oil & Gas, E&P, Oil & Gas Services, Minerals, Commercial Real Estate, Renewable Energy, and Econometrics (specifically Solar Development) & Business Consulting. William has a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Texas and an Energy Finance MBA from the University of Houston. William started with Devon Energy as a petroleum engineer out of college and interned during the summers with Pioneer Natural Resources, ConocoPhillips, Total & Devon. In 2010, William joined his family’s E&P business as the Vice President of Acquisition, Planning & Development. William was promoted several times until becoming President & COO at O’Brien Energy Company.

In 2019, William began to expand his focus to other areas. William is the Co-founder, Chairman and Managing Director at 3IV Renewables, which are oil and gas service providers based in New York City. William is the Chairman & CEO at RDIV Renewables Resource Development, LLC, the Managing Member of the General Partner for Cooper’s Corner, L.P., a commercial real estate strategy and the Co-Founder Chairman & Managing Director at Performance Operating Partners, LLC. William also sits on several boards: Miami International Stock Exchange, the largest privately held options exchange in the U.S. which just recently announced a S1 filing to potentially pursue a S1 IPO later this year and Rheovest, LLC & Emerald Surf Sciences, LLC, which are oil and gas service companies.

William has been very active in the last two years with his company’s land acquisition efforts in generating solar development prospects in the Ark-La-Tex. William has offered to share his experience with us as he’ll review some of the most commonly asked questions from landowners and important considerations when considering a solar development project on your lands. Carl S. Guffey is a retired extension forester.

Drew County Log a Load for Kids Event Returns to Pauline Baptist Church for 2022 Event
Guests were excited to be back at Pauline Baptist Church for Drew County’s LAL event.

On Saturday, August 6, members of the Drew County community and chapter of Arkansas Log a Load for Kids (LAL) met to raise funds for Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

The group has had to hold its event outside of a local park for the past couple of years due to COVID concerns. In 2022, they are finally back at their normal venue, the Pauline Baptist Church in Monticello.

“It was very exciting to have a normal event,” said Gay Pace, a leader of the Drew County LAL chapter. “It was a little stressful during the COVID, inflation, and other issues, it made me so happy to see everyone back, and we spent a lot of money!” Pace said. “I was reminded that Log a Load is very important to our supporters, and I am so grateful for that.”

“After two very difficult years because of COVID, inflation, and other issues, it made me so happy to see everyone back, and I spent a lot of money!” Pace said. “I was reminded that Log a Load is very important to our supporters, and I am so grateful for that.”

The chapter is very grateful to see folks turn out year after year despite what is going on in the world to help them help children here in our state.

“AFA Emerging Leaders Learn More About Structurlam’s Cross Laminated Timber Production
AFA Emerging Leaders Class of 2022 received one of their final lessons this month as they toured the Structurlam facility in Conway.

AFA will soon be looking for applicants for a new class starting in 2023. Keep an eye on future association publications for more information on how to submit applications to become one of our Emerging Leaders.

“ADetermined and hardy, they deserve for all the work they put in the program,” said Stephenson.

“We wanted to make their accomplishment public so they could get the recognition they deserve for all the work they put in the program,” said Stephenson.

“We had some new volunteers this year that were absolutely awesome and the people of Drew County continue to give from their heart!” said Pennington. “I like new people that join us; when you have been doing this since 1993, one tends to get a little stale; their exuberance and fresh ideas are exciting!”

He added that the one thing they were missing from this year’s event was a large logger presence. Something he hopes to change as they begin planning for 2023.

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