AFA Members, Friends Share Memories of Jennifer Lambert Johnson

On Sunday, December 4 the Arkansas Forestry Association lost a key member of the organization when Director of Business Jennifer Johnson passed away after her four-year battle with cancer. Jennifer worked as a staff member for the association for more than 11 years. In that time, she grew and administered the Tree Farm program across the state. Along with taking care of business financials, she planned many of the meetings our members have enjoyed during her time here.

Association staff have been at a loss for words since learning about her passing. She was an integral part of what AFA is and what it does. Words cannot express just how much she will be missed.

Jennifer's service was held Saturday, December 10. Friends and family have shared many special memories of her. We at AFA wanted to pass along some of those memories to honor her.

"I first met Jennifer at the ATFS Leadership Conference a few years ago in Louisville, KY. It was like she was an old friend from the first moment, maybe because she had been setting towns on fire for years at these leadership conferences alongside our TX Tree Farm Program Leader, whom I was with. Jennifer was one of the most upbeat, friendly, positive, and bright light of a person that I have met during Tree Farm work. I missed getting to see her these last 2 years due to covid shutting down the in-person national meetings. We'll miss you, Jennifer."

"I will always be thankful my life crossed paths with this dear lady. I have had the honor of working for and with her in the Arkansas Tree Farm Program. Jennifer gave of herself freely, always helping you and giving encouragement. Her commitment to her job and all of us who worked with her was second to none, and never wavered even as she neared the end of her life here on earth. I will always have special memories of her love of life, her grace, her humor, and her ability not to take this unfair world too seriously. Rest easy with those you love in Heaven, Jennifer Lambert Johnson. I sure will miss you, dear."

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New AFA Dues Structure Effective in January

The Arkansas Forestry Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors approved a new membership dues schedule effective in January 2023. The dues increase will be the first for AFA since 2013 and only the second adjustment to member dues in the last 20-plus years.

"We appreciate the support of every AFA member and have tried to push any kind of cost increase on their investment out as far as possible," said Max Braswell, executive vice president. "The cost of doing business goes up every year and combined with our aggressive long-range plan to provide more value and effective advocacy for AFA members, it’s necessary to adjust our dues to help provide a portion of the resources we need to be the voice of forestry in Arkansas."

Increases for most dues categories will be implemented in full in 2023. For the largest landowners and forest products manufacturers, the increase will be implemented over a two-year period.

A sampling of the new structure shows Friends of Forestry dues moving from $40 to $50 annually, forest landowners with up to 160 acres moves from $50 to $65 per year, forest landowner owning between 1,000 – 3,000 acres will see an increase from $175 annually to $225. Other examples include Logging Contractors between 25,000 to 75,000 tons moving from $185 a year to $240 and Secondary Manufacturers increasing from .027/MBF to .035/MBF on lumber consumed. None of the base formulas for forest products manufacturers will change; only the multiplier.

New membership brochures with all of the updated dues information will be available as soon as possible after the first of the year, and the information is also being updated on the AFA website.

As a reminder, AFA membership dues billing is done on a monthly basis. Members receive their invoice based on the month they joined AFA. If you have any questions when you receive your new dues invoice, please contact the AFA office at 501-374-2441.

Again, thank you to all of our valued members for your support of the Arkansas Forestry Association. It is an honor and a privilege to work with and for you.
Memories of Jennifer, con’t.

My prayers will continue for Chris, her family, and all who love her. May God’s strength and love be with you as you mourn and celebrate Jennifer and her beautiful impact on us all.” – Sam Denison

“Jennifer always took time in her busy schedule to help other forestry organizations. The Ouachita Society of American Foresters needed help with officer elections when the national office stopped conducting society elections. USAF asked for Jennifer’s help and Jennifer made it happen. Then later we needed Jennifer’s assistance with developing the program for an annual meeting. Jennifer prepared a professional designed handwriting for the meeting. That was Jennifer, a dear friend! That smile and happy attitude of hers will be missed.” – Larry Nance

“Jennifer was one of the best guidance mentors for me in forestry. Through her programs and her networks of professionals my horizons were greatly expanded. Most importantly, she was very important to my life. Her memory will always be a blessing to me.” – Pamela Sally

“A very sorry to hear of Jennifer’s passing. She was indeed one of a kind. I will always cherish our memories together in WOW (Women Owning Woodlands). Once I had asked her to order me an AFA shirt, and suddenly she mailed me 2 of her own shirts saying she had more than she could ever use. Every time I wear them, I think of her. I will be remembering the family in prayer during the following days. She will definitely be missed at our future AFA meetings. She kept things so organized. I could send her a text, and within a few minutes she had the perfect answer to my question. I loved her a bunch.” – Jane Purtle

“Jennifer will be greatly missed in many in the forestry industry. I am a forester and was blessed to know her and see how dedicated she was to her work and family. Your family is in my prayers.” – Joey Wallace

“Jennifer was a beautiful soul and a kindred spirit. I got to know her first as a fellow state Tree Farm program administrator and later as ATFS Director, and always felt a little braver whenever she was in the room. It takes a special person to hold us accountable and do so with compassion. Today I got the little “Blurb of Happiness” - a gift from her after a speaking engagement - down from its normal perch on my window sill and put it next to my desk so I could feel a little closer to her. Such a loss. I pray that her family may be wrapped in peace and love from their community in the time ahead.” – Angela Wells

“Jennifer was such a warm and wonderful person. It was a privilege to know and work with her. I pray for peace and comfort for her family.” – Leigh Peters

“A wonderful lady with a smile that could light any room and a heart for service to others. It was an honor to work with her.” – Allen Morgan

Jennifer thanks everyone who has sent condolences, thoughts, and prayers over the last couple of weeks. Jennifer left some big shoes to fill and she will be greatly missed.

Jennifer will be greatly missed by many in the Arkansas Forestry Association 2023 Board of Directors

(* denotes past President; + denotes USDA Liaison & special non-voting)

Robert Parkes - Parkes Cattle Co., Inc.
Ron Pearce
Matt Pelikki - Arkansas Center for Forest Business
Mike Pennington - L.D. Long, Inc.
Joe Pokorny - Mulips Woodlands Group
Kristy Prince - Maxwell Hardwood Flooring

*Pete Prutzman - Kingwood Forestry
Charles Purtle - Landowner
George Rheinhardt - Retired, NRCS
Eric Rhodes - The Ross Foundation
Steve Richardson - Richardson Wood Co.
Scott Rowland - Neill Forestry
Ray Seymour - Drax Biomass, Inc.
David Smith - Retired, Farm Credit Services.
Mack Smith - Cartage Forest Products, LLC
Walt Smith - Weyerhaeuser Co.
Derrick Spinks - Ridgeway Timber
Bobby Taylor - Shelby Taylor Trucking
Doug Teale - Domtar Industries
Clark Tennyson - Clark Timberlands
John Wainscott - Retired, Weyerhaeuser Co.
Tammy Waters - Domtar Industries
Bruce Westerman - U.S. Representative
Frank Wilson - Wilson Bros.
Harrell Wilson - Tri-W Logging
Rodney Wishard - Larson & McGowin
+Lori Wood - Ozark-St. Francis National Forest
Jim Woodruff - Landowner

Honorary Board Members:
Aubra Anthony, Jr. - Anthony Family Property Holdings
John W. Gann - Landowner

AFA Legislative Maps Now Available

Many have been asking and the Arkansas Forestry Association is excited to announce that our new 2023-2024 Legislative Maps are now available for pickup at our office.

For those interested in obtaining a few sets, please call ahead at (501) 374-2441 to let us know how many you would like. Due to shipping costs, we are unable to mail the posters. We ask that when you call, provide

the name of the person who will pick them up and when they will arrive at our office. This will be especially important during the upcoming holiday season. We want to make sure we have your sets available and someone here to get them to you. The AFA staff appreciates your cooperation and interest in our new posters.

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.

January 4
10:00 a.m. - Program Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

January 10
9:30 a.m. - Forest Protection Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

January 12
10:00 a.m. - Landowner Education Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

January 16
AFA Office Closed

January 25
9:00 a.m. - AFA’s Forestry Day at the Capitol
Arkansas State Capitol
Little Rock

January 31
10:00 a.m. - Government Affairs Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

March 9
10:00 a.m. - PLT Steering Committee Meeting
AFA Office/Zoom
Little Rock

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