



ARKANSAS TREE FARM PROGRAM

www.arkforests.org  
501-374-2441

# FAMILIES & FORESTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARKANSAS TREE FARMERS

APRIL 2019

## 92nd General Assembly Recessed

Written by Max Braswell, AFA Executive Vice President

After 87 days of work, the 92nd General Assembly recessed last Wednesday for two weeks before it is scheduled to return to adjourn Sine Die on April 24. On the final day of the session, lawmakers completed action on the last of Governor Asa Hutchinson's 4-T (Taxes, Transportation, Transformation and Teacher Pay), legislative agenda by sending him HB 1763, the 2,049-page state government transformation bill. He signed the bill into law the next day making it Act 910 of the session. In addition, they completed work on a \$5.75 billion general revenue budget. Earlier in the week, the Governor signed bills that require out-of-state Internet retailers to collect sales and use taxes; cut corporate income taxes; increase the homestead property tax exemption; and change who oversee franchise taxes.

All-in-all, it was a successful session for the forestry, agriculture and general business community. Here is a summary of some legislation that was recently signed into law:

- **HB 1423 by Rep. Ken Bragg, R - Sheridan** is now **Act 257**. It makes two changes to the law concerning the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters. It deletes language that specifies that a two-year associates degree in forestry must come from a community college or junior college, and removes the timeframe of six months before a candidate who fails an examination may apply for another examination.
- **HB 1763 by Rep. Andy Davis, R - Little Rock** is now **Act 910**. Of interest to AFA, one of the 15 agencies is the Arkansas Agriculture Department, which houses the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The bill also creates a 15-member Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission that maintains the State Forester as a member.
- **HB 1833 by Rep. John Maddox, R - Mena** is now **Act 794**. It concerns ATV use on private property and defines protections and responsibilities

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**THE TREE FARM PROGRAM...**  
is administered by the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) and its Tree Farm Committee.

**AFA's goal is to provide relevant, timely information about the Tree Farm program and forestry resources.**

## Register for Tree Farm Conference

The 5th Arkansas Tree Farmer Conference will be held on Friday, May 17 at the Fordyce Civic Center in Fordyce. This year's conference is focused upon changes within the Tree Farm program, Landscape Management Plans, mapping systems and GIS, and drone uses in forestry. The afternoon will include a drone demonstration, weather permitting.

The Conference is being sponsored by AFA Education Foundation, West Fraser and Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas.

## How's Your Habitat?

**Just bought your dream property? Now what? - You need a plan!**

Written by Ted Zawislak, AGFC Statewide Private Lands Supervisor

You just closed on the property you've been dreaming about for the last 5 years. The property you have always wanted is finally yours! Congratulations, you have BEGUN the process of owning and managing a piece of recreational property.

The purchase of the property is just the beginning of the process in all aspects. Many more hours of planning and implementing plans are ahead as are many more dollars of investment in the project. Many buyers fail to realize that the purchase price is only a part of the financial investment that will eventually and inevitably be made in the property. It is strongly suggested that a buyer have at least a rough plan for the property before closing on the purchase. This might dictate what kind of property you purchase. Your plan might differ if you buy a 100 acre clear cut versus a mature hardwood forest or cattle pasture. It has been said, "If you have no idea of where you are going, how do you know when you get there?"

So you just bought your little piece of heaven, what is the first step. Get a good plan. A plan for a newly purchased recreational property really consists of two parts. The first part of the plan is the implementation plan and the second part is the maintenance plan.

The implementation plan can take up to 5 -10 years depending on your financial situation. The maintenance plan involves having the right equipment to keep things going.

Always start with a good map of your property! You can go to Google Earth or the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Interactive mapper <http://gis.agfc.com/> - both are free. The first thing you'll need to mark on your map is your property boundaries. This will help you to plan food plots, deer stands, wildlife travel routes, etc. An AGFC Private Lands Biologist can provide maps and technical assistance for your property.

Doing things for wildlife can be costly. Good news is there is a lot of help out there and most of it is free. There are many programs that can assist you with free technical assistance and advice. This is just a few to get started.

1. AGFC Private Lands Biologist - Can give you technical assistance to manage for wildlife on your property. Contact PLB that covers the county that the land is in. <http://www.agfc.com/habitat>
2. Arkansas Forestry Commission Stewardship program - This is always my first suggestion to a new

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Registration is \$25.00 per person and includes lunch and educational materials.  
*Registration deadline is May 10.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
TREE FARM # (IF KNOWN): \_\_\_\_\_  
LIST ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF ATTENDEES: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 EACH

SHIRT SIZE/S (SHIRTS ARE UNISEX): \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT OPTIONS  
VISA ( ) MASTERCARD ( ) AMEX ( )  
*Email address required for credit card payment*

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_  
CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
BILLING ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(PAYABLE TO ARKANSAS TREE FARM PROGRAM)

MAIL TO:  
ARKANSAS TREE FARM PROGRAM  
1213 W. 4TH STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

## General Assembly, con't.

regarding private landowners. It says a participant who rents, leases or uses an ATV on private property whether or not a fee is paid assumes the inherent risk of ATV use on private property and shall not have a claim against, maintain an action against, or recover from an owner of private property for loss, damage, or injury to, or the death of the participant resulting from the inherent risk of ATV use. As is the case now, a private property owner is not protected against things such as intentional injury, gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

- **SB 282 by Sen. Trent Garner, R - El Dorado** is now **Act 451**. It amends the law concerning the sale of timber by a co-owner or coheir to state that a buyer may purchase the timber from unknown or unlocatable co-owners or coheirs of land and may remove the timber without the consent of the unknown or unlocatable co-owners

or coheirs when at least 60 percent of the ownership interest in the land has consented. The previous law required that at least 80 percent consent.

- **SB 336 by Sen. Terry Rice, R - Waldron** is now **Act 416**. It was a central component of the Governor's \$300 million roads funding plan along with HJR 1018. Act 416 will raise about \$95 million a year for the state Department of Transportation.
- **SB 408 by Senator Matt Pitsch, R - Ft. Smith** is now **Act 515**. It will require a real estate closing agent to disclose that agriculture operations are near real property located in a rural area and protect the agriculture operation from being considered a public or private nuisance if it employs methods or practices that are commonly or reasonably associated with agriculture production. Silvicultural operations are included in the definition of agriculture operations.

- **SB 450 by Senator Blake Johnson, R - Corning** is now **Act 588**. It creates the Arkansas New Farm Machinery Quality Act. It is a "lemon law" for ag equipment. It is AFA's understanding that timber harvesting equipment is included in this Act.
- **SB 459 by Senator Kim Hammer, R - Benton** is now **Act 732**. It is the appropriation bill that will allow the disbursement of funds to the Feral Hog Eradication Task force for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

AFA works hard to be the eyes and ears of forestry, but it takes a collective effort to ensure our interests are protected when thousands of bills are filed. If at any time you have a question, need additional information or have feedback on a public policy issue, please don't hesitate to contact Max Braswell at the AFA office at 501-374-2441 or by e-mail at [mbraswell@arkforests.org](mailto:mbraswell@arkforests.org).



### Arkansas Tree Farm Program

1213 W. 4th St.  
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[www.arkforests.org](http://www.arkforests.org)

Non-Profit Org  
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Little Rock, AR  
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### Mark your calendars for these upcoming educational opportunities:

May 17

*Arkansas Tree Farmer Conference*  
Fordyce Civic Center, Fordyce - 8 a.m.

May 5

*Walk on the Wildside: Edible Trees and Plants*  
Hobbs State Park, Rogers - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 28-29

*TCT Workshop Series Session 1: Prescribed Fire*  
CAW Forest Legacy Property, Bigelow

June 13-14

*TCT Workshop Series Session 2: Logs to Lumber*  
PotlatchDeltic Headquarters, Warren

June 19

*White-tailed Deer Management in the Natural State*  
River Valley Nature Center, Fort Smith - 12 noon

## Habitat, con't.

landowner wanting advice about the timber and wildlife on their property. This free program offers landowners access to a professional forester and/or wildlife biologist to look over their property and make written recommendations. <https://www.aad.arkansas.gov/forest-stewardship>

3. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - This program will allow you to do multiple practices for wildlife and timber production. I usually suggest people to sign up to do fire lanes under EQIP first. These are usually dozed around just inside the boundary of your property. The lanes provide access to ride an ATV or walk all around your property, offer protection from wildfires and are used to improve conditions for Prescribed Fire. Contact your local USDA NRCS office about this program. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

The key is to get as much advice on the front end as possible to set up your property. Then once you switch to maintenance mode of the plan you will know what practices will keep the habitat conditions the way you like it.

For more information on establishing and maintaining land for wildlife habitat improvement and programs to help, contact an AGFC Private Lands Biologist at your local AGFC office or visit the AGFC webpage for more info at <http://www.agfc.com/habitat>.

### NOTE: NRCS Deadlines

May 3

*Financial Assistance to Restore and Improve Forest Health Western Arkansas Counties*

May 10

*Updated Conservation Stewardship Program*  
[www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov)