Register Now to Become a Sponsor or Exhibitor for AFA’s 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are now available for the Arkansas Forestry Association’s 77th Annual Meeting in Little Rock.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF AFA

Those interested in becoming a sponsor or exhibitor for AFA’s 75th Anniversary can visit arkforests.org/event/2022AnnualMeeting. This year we are celebrating 75 years of being the voice of forestry in Arkansas. Our program committee and AFA staff have been hard at work making sure this year’s annual meeting is one to remember in honor of our anniversary.

We will be gathering at the DoubleTree Little Rock located in the River Market from October 11-13. As in years past, our event will start that Tuesday morning with recreational activities that include a round of golf at the Chenal Country Club or shooting sporting clays at the Blue Rock Gun Club. The Forest Management Workshop and exhibitor set-up will begin after lunch, back at our venue. The AFA Board of Directors will meet after the workshop, and we will conclude the night with our Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas sponsored opening reception.

Wednesday, we will kick off our day-long general session, then gather for our annual fish fry at Dickey-Stephens Park. On Thursday morning, we will conclude the meeting with our Awards Breakfast to honor some of our exemplary members of the forestry industry.

AFA’s Annual Meeting will take place at the DoubleTree in Little Rock for 2022.

Details on speakers, and topics, are currently being finalized, and more information will be released in the following months. We have a lot of big things planned this year that you will not want to miss.

The association would like to give a special thank you to those who have already chosen to sponsor the meeting. Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas will be our Premier Sponsor once again. PotlatchDeltic is a Diamond Sponsor, Green Bay Packaging is a Gold Sponsor, and Georgia Pacific and International Paper are Silver Sponsors.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or an exhibitor, you can visit the event on our website at arkforests.org/event/2022AnnualMeeting. This year, refunds will not be issued after September 30 for all attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors.

We are very excited about some of the big, new things we have planned this year and hope you are too. If you have any questions about becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, please call the AFA office at (501) 374-2441.

National Alliance of Forest Owners Visits the Natural State

Excitement abounded as members of the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) Operating Committee gathered in Little Rock this month to see what the Natural State is doing in the field of forestry.

Every year, members of the organization meet twice to discuss important strategic questions to provide an outlook of their year. For their first meeting, NAFO chose Arkansas.

Members gathered on March 22 at the Capitol Hotel in Little Rock to discuss various national issues facing the forestry industry. These discussions led to a tour of Structurlam’s new facility in Conway.

Attendees of last year’s Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Annual Meeting will remember one of our general session speakers, Dave Tenney, the president and CEO of NAFO, who worked closely with the association to help coordinate this tour and a potential tour of a local tree farm.

“We wanted first-hand experience seeing members gather outside Structurlam’s facility for a quick introduction before splitting into two tour groups.

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Forestry Legend Russell Roy (R.R.) Reynolds Inducted into Agriculture Hall of Fame

After years of planning and rescheduling, the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame finally met Friday, March 25, to induct the 34th class, including forestry legend Russell Roy (R.R.) Reynolds.

Russell Roy (R.R.) Reynolds was inducted into the 34th Class of the Agriculture Hall of Fame. Nominated by the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA), Reynolds was one of the founding fathers of the Crosscut Experimental Forest. This project led to what we now know as sustainable forestry.

With a history in forest economy, he had the quantitative skills to conduct inventories of standing timber, time-and-motion studies related to logging practices, and the efficacy of using trucks to haul logs to the mill. Each of these ideas was new in the early 1930s.

He authored or co-authored approximately 175 publications during his career. Much of his work is still cited by scientists today and can be found in numerous textbooks on silviculture and forest management.

Even after he retired from the Forest Service in 1965, he remained active in forestry as a member of the Society of American Foresters and a practicing tree farmer. Reynolds also continued to provide tours of the experimental forest as well as contribute to various publications into the 1980s.

Reynolds’ grandson, Ken McDonald, accepted the award on his behalf. McDonald explained that when he was first contacted by AFA Executive Vice President Max Braswell about the nomination, he was taken aback. He said he and his family were excited when they learned that Reynolds had been one of the six chosen for this class.

“My grandfather was already in the Forestry Hall of Fame at UAM, so we have been blessed with that,” McDonald said. “To add this to it is just real affirmation of his impact on agriculture on the state of Arkansas.”

Reynolds passed away in 1996 when McDonald was 16. He recalls his grandfather being a quiet, analytical man but very passionate about the forestry industry. A memory he shared was seeing his grandfather at the head of the table surrounded by his children talking non-stop about forestry, forest management, what needed to change, and what was going right or wrong with the industry.

In his acceptance speech on behalf of Reynolds, McDonald said he thought his grandfather would have gone up to the podium, humbly thanked everyone, and then started into his passion for educating people on forestry.

“He was always trying to teach and coach and those types of things,” McDonald said. “I think he would have spent a good part of his time up there trying to encourage people to draw in as many young people as we can to this industry because I think he saw that as a critical link for us.”

Dick Reynolds (back left), Ken McDonald (back right), and Jack Reynolds (front) pose with their father’s grandchild’s award.

McDonald works for Weyerhaeuser and often times he was a bit intimidating getting his education. He remembered a moment in school when he was about to give a big presentation to all his professors. All the while, his grandfather’s picture was hanging on the back wall in the Forestry Hall of Fame.

“That’s really a heavy burden to bear for some people but his dedication to forestry, his passion for it, I think, is the one thing that I appreciate most and the one thing I try to emulate,” McDonald said.

Dick Reynolds (back left), Ken McDonald (back right), and Jack Reynolds (front) pose with their father’s grandchild’s award.

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NAFO Visits the Natural State, con’t.

what Structurlam was doing in this state to drive the use of mass timber in the Walmart campus, and we wanted to understand that relationship between the cross-laminated timber being produced in Structurlam with the forest resources in the state,” Tenny said.

He added that they wanted to see who was providing the timber, where it was coming from, and the impacts of this project on the state. NAFO also wanted to get congressional staffs out to the facility to witness these factors for themselves.

NAFO members were excited to see some of the forestry innovation going on in Arkansas, which included the new Structurlam facility.

“With what we found was that there was a lot of interest and excitement and a desire to do something to help further forests, private working forests in particular, and the products that come from those forests as part of the next Farm Bill,” Tenny said.

He and his members had a lot of expectations when they chose Arkansas as their meeting place. Tenny explained that all those expectations were validated by everything they saw.

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