

The 35th Annual A. B. Brooks Memorial Forestry Symposium



The annual A. B. Brooks Memorial Forestry Symposium was inaugurated in 1986 to honor and commemorate West Virginia's first and most illustrious forester. His full name was Alonzo Beecher Brooks, although he was simply "A. B." to friends and acquaintances. He was born May 6, 1873. The Brooks family lived near French Creek, Upshur County, West Virginia, on a typical West Virginia hill farm. There was no money for college; so A. B. taught himself plane surveying and began the preparation of a map that included every road and every dwelling (outside the corporate limits of Buckhannon) in Upshur County.

In 1905, the map was completed, and sales provided funds for his entrance to West Virginia University. Since there were few public high schools, A. B. spent two years in college preparation courses, then began a baccalaureate program (1908) which included the first forestry courses ever offered at the University. He was a member of the first graduating class that had instruction in forestry.

He then accepted an appointment as forester from the West Virginia Geological Survey (1910-1911) to collect data for, and to prepare a survey of West Virginia's forest resources, county by county. This detailed study resulted in a book of 486 pages and was published as Forestry and Wood Industries, Volume 5 of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, in 1911. It is the classic on the State's early forest conditions and resources.

A. B. later served as forester for the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, where he worked on a program concerned with stopping the spread of chestnut blight. From West Virginia, he moved to the state of New York and spent two years in its Conservation Department. After this, he returned to West Virginia where he soon published a 242- page book (West Virginia Trees). This book included identification data, descriptions, ranges and a detailed drawing of every tree species known to occur within the State. Originally published by West Virginia University in 1920, it was reprinted in 1951 and republished in 1972.

In 1921, West Virginia's first Conservation Commission was established, and A. B. became its first director with the title of Chief Game Protector. Under his administration, the first State forest (Seneca) and the first State park (Watoga) were established.

When Colonel E. W. Oglebay left his 700- acre Waddington Farms to the city of Wheeling, a recreational and educational program of music, nature study, handicrafts, horticulture, and other cultural activities was instituted. A. B. became Oglebay Institute's first Staff Naturalist. His Sunday morning bird walks along Oglebay's trails gradually developed into the internationally famous Brooks Bird Club.

He died on May 16, 1944.

The 35th Annual AB Brooks Memorial Forestry Symposium will be held on March 1 from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm as a Virtual meeting using Zoom interactive meeting technology. Registrants will receive an invitation to the program once they've provided their registration fee. The invitation will provide each registrant access to the full program via the interactive zoom platform. Registrants will need a computer with access to the internet through wifi or a mobile cell phone with internet access using mobile data or wifi.

Registration Fee includes 2.5 hrs of CFE Credit:

Registration
(Before February 25th)
\$35 for Members
\$75 for Non-members

Late Registration
(After February 25th)
\$45 for Members
\$90 for Non-members

Payment Options

- **Check** (Mail to 2008 Quarrier Street Charleston, WV 25311 postmarked by February 22nd, 2021)
- **Credit Card** (Provide credit card information on this form, and send this completed form to kayla@wvfa.org)
- **Name on Card** _____
- **Card Number** _____
- **Expiration Date** _____
- **CVV** _____ **Zip Code** _____

AB Brooks 35th Annual Memorial Forestry Symposium Agenda

March 1st, 8:30 am to 12:15 pm on Zoom

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- WVFA President John Holstine and Executive Director Eric Carlson

Products made in WV – An expert panel from various key sectors, specifically flooring, railroad ties, by-products, and engineered wood address the current and future market for their products. The focus is on current market conditions, the factors most affecting the market, and projections of demand for these products over the next six months to a year... with a Q&A session at the conclusion of their presentations.

- **Flooring Market Update** – Tony Honeycutt, Mullican Flooring
- **Treated Timbers & Ties Updates** – Buddy Downey and Jason Dallas, Stella-Jones Corporation
- **Engineered Wood** – Gene Shutler, Weyerhaeuser Corporation
- **Pellets/Byproducts** – Roger Burd, Lignetics Corporation
- **Question & Answer Period**



Export Market for Hardwood Lumber and Log Update – A frank discussion about the current state of the export market for hardwood lumber and logs. Given that almost fifty percent of the hardwood lumber produced in Appalachia is exported, this should be an interesting and lively presentation by the experts from AHEC!

- **Tripp Pryor and Mike Snow, American Hardwood Export Council**
- **Question & Answer Period**

Carbon credit opportunities for small acreages – Changes in the carbon market to allow entry by smaller acreages could prove profitable for many WV landowners. Campbell Moore, with TNC, discusses the market for carbon and the potential opportunities for landowners to enter and profit from that market.

- **Campbell Moore, Director, Central Appalachian Region, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**

Break @ 10:30

Forest Management Challenges and Opportunities – A select group of experts discuss critical management issues and initiatives in this fast-paced panel discussion focused on new initiatives, the constant threats from invasive species, and unique approaches to logging.

- **The Wildlife Initiative** - Henning Stebbins, Wildlife Biologist, Weyerhaeuser Corporation
- **Invasive Species and WV Forests** - Andrew Liebhold, USDA Forest Service
- **Tethered Logging** - Joe Currie, Lyme Timber Company
- **Question & Answer Period**

State Forester Update – An update on state forestry issues by our State Forester.

- **Tom Cover**

Legislative Update – Key bills and policy changes initiated in our WV state legislature in 2021, as explained by two seasoned legislative professionals, with a significant focus on natural resource issues.

- **Eric Carlson and Phyllis Cole**

Adjourn @ 12:15