

The 36th Annual A. B. Brooks Memorial Forestry Symposium
8:30 am to 12:00 pm
February 1, 2022
Charleston Town Center Marriott, Charleston, WV

The 36th Annual AB Brooks Memorial Forestry Symposium will be held on February 1 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Marriott Charleston Town Center Hotel in Charleston, WV. Registrants will receive CFE credit through the Society of American Foresters (SAF).



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 the forester for 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.

Registration Details

Early Bird Registration:

\$130 for Members (Meals included)
\$50 for Members (Break only)
\$160 for Non-members (Meals included)
\$80 for Non-members (Break only)

Late Registration (after January 24th):

\$145 for Members (Meals included)
\$65 for Members (Break only)
\$175 for Non-members (Meals included)
\$95 for Non-Members (Break only)

Full registration includes the January 31st Agriculture and Forestry Day at the Capital Banquet

Email Kayla Springer at Kayla@wvfa.org to register for the program and to register for SAF CFE credits.
Registration will close on **Monday, January 24th**.

Overnight room reservations can be made by calling the Charleston Marriott Town Center at (304) 345-6500. Identify the West Virginia Forestry Association to obtain the \$159.00 room rate.

AB Brooks Symposium
February 1st, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm
Program Agenda

7:00-8:15 AM

Breakfast

8:30

Welcome & Opening Remarks -WVFA President John Holstine and Executive Director Eric Carlson

8:40

Forest carbon markets and impacts to forest product markets - Dr. Alex Finkral, Chief Forester and Vice President of Conservation, The Forestland Group

9:00

Forests And Drinking Water “Critical Zone” water system... Why forests are the preferred cover for supply watersheds - Erica Pauken, Source Water Protection Program Manager, West Virginia American Water

9:20

Innovative Hardwood Products – Charles Becker, USDA Forest Products Lab & USDA FS Wood Innovations Program, Washington, DC

9:40

Highway Weight Limits and Permits - Todd Gibson, P.E., Hauling Permit Section, WV Dept. of Highways

10:00

Break (15 minutes)

10:15

Hardwood Products Update – An expert panel from various key sectors (flooring, railroad ties, furniture) address the current and future market for their product sector. The talks will focus on current market conditions, factors most affecting the market, and projections of demand for products in the coming year.

- **Flooring Market Update** – Tony Honeycutt, Mullican Hardwood Flooring
- **Treated Timbers & Ties Updates** – Beryl Beagle, Stella-Jones Corporation
- **Furniture**, Cat Caperton, Caperton Furniture Works
- **Question & Answer Period**

11:00

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! (40 minutes with Q&A Session) - **Tripp Pryor and Mike Snow, American Hardwood Export Council**

11:40

State Forester Update – An update on state forestry issues - **WV State Forester, Tom Cover**

12:00

Adjourn & Lunch