



ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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Kenny Smothers Receives Urban Forestry Leadership Award

STATEWIDE, ARK. — Kenny Smothers, a county forester with the Arkansas Agriculture Department's Forestry Commission, received the 2018 Outstanding Professional of the Year Award from the [Arkansas Urban Forestry Council](#) (AUFC) this week. The AUFC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of urban and community trees through education, outreach and partnerships.

Smothers has worked to strengthen forestry partnerships, programs, and outreach to urban communities for more than 10 years in northeast Arkansas counties. "Kenny does a wonderful job of working with leaders, civic groups, volunteers, and residents in communities to generate interest for urban forestry. He makes working on community tree projects, learning about tree biology and maintenance, and long-term urban forest planning easy and exciting for residents," says Urban Forestry Coordinator Alison Litchy. "We look forward to many more urban forestry success stories from northeast Arkansas communities because of Kenny's influence."

Urban forestry efforts are part of the services offered by the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC). Urban forestry personnel are located across the state to ensure urban forestry efforts are specific to the needs of local residents. Urban forestry services include free presentations and training on tree pruning, urban tree selection and planning, and urban tree maintenance and development. The urban forestry team also arranges for tree seedling giveaways in storm damaged areas, and tree plantings through the Shade Trees on Playgrounds (S.T.O.P.) program.

AFC's urban forestry personnel can assist communities and colleges interested in participating with the Tree City, USA and Tree Campus, USA programs. Assistance is also provided to communities and city tree boards developing long-term urban forest development strategies. Learn more about the AFC's urban forestry program, [here](#).

The AFC is a proud sponsor and partner of the AUFC. Through the AUFC, AFC urban forestry personnel arrange for workshops and assessments by licensed arborists.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit www.aad.arkansas.gov.

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