Early this month, the Drew County Log-a-Load for Kids chapter held their annual event in Monticello. The Pauline Baptist Church, where the event was held, was full of people ready to give to help the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Those who attended had the opportunity to grab a bite to eat, make offers in both silent and live auctions as well as enter for a chance to win various raffles. At this year's event, the chapter heads chose to honor the Howard family and their newest member, Cash, who was recently treated at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

"Every day I get to look into the face of a miracle," Emily Howard said.

Emily, Cash's, mother said her son was born at 29 weeks. A few weeks later he became very ill and was transferred to ACH.

"At Children's we were one of the worst cases, probably the worst case in the NICU," Howard said. "So it got really scary, really fast."

She and her husband didn't think their son would make it past a few weeks in the hospital. But miraculously, Howard said the doctors working to take care of her baby boy figured out what was wrong. From there, Cash started getting better and after

Drew County Log-a-Load for Kids Chapter Honors Local Family

Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson included Rogers Lumber Company in Camden, which has been in operation for over 60 years, as part of his recent August agriculture tour. Joe Rogers, Jr., the third generation of Rogers to run the operation, hosted the Governor and welcomed a large group of forestry representatives and special guests to the sawmill.

Joining the governor on the tour were Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward, State Senator Trent Garner, State Forester Joe Fox and Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioner J.D. Neeley, who helped coordinate the event with Matt Stone, a member of the Arkansas Forestry Commission board.

Before the tour began, Rogers introduced his family including the second generation of the Rogers family, Joe Rogers, Sr., as well as his two sons, the future leadership of the company. Both State Forestry Fox and AFA Executive Vice President Max Braswell shared information about the current state of the timber and forest products community in Arkansas.

"It was quite an honor for the governor to choose to visit the mill," Rogers said. "It's nice to see the governor get out in a local setting and see what people do for a living."

During the tour, which was limited to only an hour due to his busy schedule, the governor was able to meet employees and see the mill's hardwood lumber.
Drew County Log-a-Load, con’t.

83 days in the NICU, the Howard family was able to go home together.

The Log-a-Load for Kids chapters around the state all work to raise money so families like the Howards can receive the help they need during a very scary time.

Emily explained before she was contacted by the Drew County chapter, she had no idea what Log-a-Load was.

“I am so thankful for the group of people here that are doing this and I wish I had become a part of this sooner,” she said. “Because like I said, you hear of kids being at Children’s and all of that and you think oh I’ll pray for them and I hate that and can’t imagine what that family is going through. But for all of these people, every year to put their money into and to believe in Children’s, just to send some love and encouragement that way even when they have no connection to others, the fact that they know we are there, it’s incredible.”

She continued to say the experience was humbling to see many from around her own community were reaching out to help. To her and her family, those at Children’s who helped them during a rough time are like family. They would do anything to help them continue to do what they do for children like Cash.

Since returning home, Emily said her son has been doing great. He soon will be celebrating his first birthday; something Emily said they didn’t think would happen those first few weeks.

Attendees had the chance to take part in a live auction during the event where items like homemade quilts, a puppy and a handcrafted turkey call were sold for Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

The members of the Drew County Log-a-Load chapter are still tallying up how much was raised. Those numbers will be announced when they are finalized. To hear more from Emily and to see some of the event, you can check out the Arkansas Forestry Association Facebook page.

Speaker Spotlight, con’t.

completed deployments and training exercises in Afghanistan, Jordan, and Japan. He is currently serving in the Marine Corps Reserves as a Civil Affairs Officer with the Force Headquarters Group in New Orleans, LA. Wes has also worked as a Field Coordinator for U.S. Congressman Rick Crawford and as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Wes is serving as the 3rd Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas. He was appointed to the position in March 2015 by Governor Asa Hutchinson. The Arkansas Agriculture Department includes the State Plant Board, the Livestock and Poultry Commission, and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. 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.

Mark Benson, VP, Public Affairs PotlatchDeltic:
Mark Benson has been employed in the forest products industry for 44 years. Forty-one of those years have been with Potlatch Corporation, now PotlatchDeltic, in Idaho, Minnesota and Washington state. Mark’s career has included positions in forestry operations, logging operations, timberland acquisition, timber procurement, strategic planning, mill management and public affairs. Mark has represented the company in matters relating to Arkansas governmental policy since the early 2000s. He is currently Vice President, Public Affairs and is located at PotlatchDeltic’s corporate headquarters in Spokane, Washington.

To see a schedule of events for this year’s annual meeting, you can go to the events page at arkforests.org.
Governor Tours Mill, con’t.

production process. Between stops, he traded information with Rogers on a variety of issues. They discussed the impact of the proposed Sun Paper mill, the challenge of utilizing wood waste in today’s market, and how the company was able to stay modern while still providing much-needed jobs. Rogers said he stressed the renewability of our state’s forest land and the need for continued investment in forest infrastructure.

Neeley said he was very pleased that the governor was able to visit a state-of-the-art Ouachita County business.

“I think it was very important to him to get to shake hands with so many of the folks in the mill,” Neeley said. “He spoke to them personally and wanted to get their input.”

Governor Hutchinson was very impressed with the Rogers mill, according to Neeley, who accompanied him on a lunch visit with a local teacher immediately following the tour. Both Neeley and Rogers emphasized the importance of forestry to south Arkansas and the state.

“I wanted the governor to see how important forestry is to south Arkansas,” Rogers said. “It’s one of the largest industries we have left around Camden.”

“I think he certainly came away with the understanding of the importance of what forestry means to the state,” Neeley said. “In fact, when compared to all 50 states, Arkansas’ economy is four times more dependent on forestry.”

Hutchinson’s agriculture tour lasted two days, and included stops in multiple counties to speak to farmers, ranchers, forestry professionals and community leaders.

August was a busy month for political leaders in the state. Congressman Bruce Westerman visited the Interfor sawmill in Monticello and Senator Tom Cotton also sat down with agriculture leaders.

Collaboration To Bring Forest Owner, Classroom Teachers Together

The Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation in partnership with the Arkansas Tree Farm Program is offering Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project WILD workshops designed specifically to connect school teachers, natural resource professionals, and Arkansas Tree Farmers. PLT and WILD build on children’s sense of wonder and provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about nature and lifelong social and academic skills. This free workshop is designed for the novice educator in mind. It will provide the skills and tools necessary to teach children about the importance of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource conservation in Arkansas. Each workshop will feature:

- Hands-on activities you can use for classroom visits or field trips plus instruction on how to use the PLT and WILD activity guides to locate activities and resources;
- Sharing of ideas, information and resources with other landowners, classroom teachers, and forestry professionals;
- Activity Guides - each participant will receive three FREE activity guides with over a hundred hands-on, minds-on activities that teach critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- Lunch (you must register online or contact Rob Beadel)

There are currently three free workshops scheduled across the state. You can register under the events section of arkforests.org.

October 12, 2018, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Logoly State Park, 2370 Columbia Rd 47, Magnolia, AR 71753

October 19, 2018, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lake Dardanelle State Park, 100 State Park Drive, Russellville, AR 72802

December 14, 2018, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Forrest L. Wood Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center, 600 E. Lawson Rd., Jonesboro, AR 72404

AFAEF Raffle Announced At 73rd Annual Meeting

At this year’s AFA Annual Meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to win a new “Wild Hog” Ruger 10/22 rifle through the AFA Education Foundation 2018 Raffle.

Tickets can be purchased for $5 per ticket or five tickets for $20 at the registration table. The winner will be drawn at the conclusion of the annual meeting on October 4 in Hot Springs. You must be present to win.

Ticket purchases are tax deductible and all proceeds will benefit the AFA Education Foundation.

Rob Beadel, the Director of Forestry Education, said this money will help him continue to put on various educational classes around the state. This includes programs like Project Learning Tree and Landowner Education. He said nothing specific is earmarked for this money and it will go into the general fund for the foundation.

The gun is a 10/22 Wild Hog TALO Special Edition .22LR Simi-Auto Rifle. The stock is made of walnut with a custom laser engraved wild hog. It comes with one detachable rotary magazine. The gun has a capacity of ten plus one. It weighs about seven and a half pounds with a barrel length of 20 inches. The entire length of the gun is 38.5 inches.

This raffle is sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters.
Arkansas State Representative Ken Bragg proudly supports the Arkansas Forestry Association

Representative Bragg represents District 15 in the Arkansas House of Representatives
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