College Student Shares Her Arkansas Children’s Story with Drew County

Drew County Log a Load for Kids’ honored guest, Mallie Mullins, a 19-year-old college student, shared her story this month to help raise money for other Arkansas Children’s patients.

In the 5th grade, Mallie was sitting in class when suddenly everything went black.

“I don’t remember anything from that moment,” Mallie said. “But after, people have told me the story of what happened. I had a seizure in my 5th-grade classroom. They took me in an ambulance to the local hospital and then MedFlighted me to Children’s.”

It was a few hours before Mallie woke up to her mother saying everything was okay and that they were at the hospital. Doctors later told the Mullins family that Mallie had many blood vessels piled up in her brain. Bleeding from those vessels caused her to have a seizure. Mallie soon underwent surgery where doctors removed the cavernous malformation in her right occipital lobe.

She stayed in the hospital for a week and was then able to go home. But that was only Mallie’s first trip. About a year later, she returned when she discovered soft spots in her skull around the metal plate from her first surgery.

Since then, Mallie has graduated high school, traveled to Peru for mission work, and is currently a student at Southern Arkansas University. She explained life has been great, and so has her health. The only side effect she lives with now is that her peripheral vision on her left side has deteriorated.

Mallie said one fond memory she has from her time at Arkansas Children’s was of the nurses who took care of her. There was one nurse in particular that she described as a “really big male nurse” that inspired her to become a nurse herself. She, unfortunately, does not remember that nurse’s name.

“I was thinking, if I’m getting this much care and love from the nurses, I want to be one,” Mallie said. “I mean right after I got out of the hospital, I was like I want to be a nurse.”

Eight years later, Mallie is about to enter her second year of college, where she is studying to fulfill her dream.

When representatives from the Drew County Log a Load for Kids approached Mallie, she had never heard of the organization. After some research, she was shocked to see a group in her hometown, raising so much to help children.

Gay Pace, a Drew County Log a Load for Kids committee member, said they are still

A piece of Mallie’s art was sold during the live auction and was used on Drew County’s t-shirt design for the 2019 event.

Annual Meeting Speaker Spotlight: Part 1

Before you arrive in Little Rock for the 74th Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting, get to know some of the people who will be speaking at this year’s General Session.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas

Asa Hutchinson is the 46th governor of the State of Arkansas. In 2018, he was re-elected with 65% of the vote, having received more votes than any other candidate for governor in the state’s history. He has won recognition for the state as a leader in computer science education and signed into law the biggest and second-biggest income tax rate cut in Arkansas state history. Under his economic development policies, 70,000 more people are working in Arkansas than when he took office, and he has signed incentive agreements with more than 400 companies that were expanding or opening in the state.

Before being elected governor, Asa Hutchinson served as Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration and as Undersecretary of Homeland Security. Voters in Arkansas’s Third District also elected him to Congress three times.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas law school, Asa Hutchinson, at age 31, was appointed by President Reagan as the nation’s youngest U.S. attorney.

He and his wife Susan have been married for...
First AFAEF Raffle to Include Winchester Shotgun Tuesday Night

The Winchester SXP Waterfowl Hunter 12-gauge shotgun will be raffled off Tuesday night in a card drawing at the Opening Reception.

At this year’s Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting, attendees will have not one, but two chances to win a gun during AFA Education Foundation raffles.

One of those guns is a Winchester SXP Waterfowl Hunter 12-gauge shotgun.

The gun is pump-action with a 28-inch barrel that has a capacity of 4 + 1. It has a Truglo fiber-optic sight and a TrueTimber DRT pattern synthetic stock as well as a TrueTimber DRT pattern finish.

The shotgun will be raffled off on Tuesday night, October 8 in a card drawing at the Opening Reception. Two decks will be sold at $10 per card. The proceeds from this and the Fish Fry raffle will benefit AFAEF.

Rob Beadel, the Director of Forestry Education, said the money raised will be placed in the foundation’s general fund to help continue the delivery of education classes around the state. This includes programs like Project Learning Tree and Landowner Education Workshops.

This raffle is sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters. Ticket purchases for both raffles are tax deductible.

We will still have our Fish Fry raffle, which is sponsored by International Paper.

More information on that prize will be released at a later time.

After talking about future timber markets, August's Poll Yard is about identifying an invasive species in Arkansas.

August's Question:

The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is working to collect information on the distribution of Chinese Tallow throughout the state. They need your help in this endeavor.

In this month’s Poll Yard, we want to know if you have any of these invasive trees on your property. Please let us know if you do as well as the address or coordinates of the tree. Also specify if it is either (1) a single tree/sapling/seedling, (2) a few trees to about an acre in cover, or (3) a substantial coverage of unit exceeding one acre.

You can submit your answer by visiting tinyurl.com/AugustPollYard. If you would like your name published, make sure you add it to your answer.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Please Note:
For meetings that are held at the AFA Office, please park on the street or in one of the area lots -- do not park in the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce parking lot.
Arkansas Children’s Story, con’t.

calculating the total amount raised at this year’s event, but expects it to be about $125,000.

“Our silent auction almost doubled this year in total raised,” Pace said. “Every year, we have obstacles to overcome, but despite the obstacles, our supporters always come through for us. This year had to be one of the most difficult, but thanks to our supporters, we had a successful year.”

Thanks to Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Mallie is on her way to a successful career in nursing. Who knows, one day she may be the special caregiver who inspires someone’s dreams.

Speaker Spotlight, con’t.

more than 40 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Governor Hutchinson will deliver the Keynote Address at 8:45 a.m. to start the Wednesday General Session.

Rocky Goodnow, VP of the North American Timber Service at Forest Economic Advisors LLC

In his role, Rocky is responsible for FEA’s outlook on the North American timber markets. Rocky leads the development of FEA’s timber econometric models, which are used in the analysis of future demand on wood fiber resources, regional timber supplies, and timber values.

Rocky is the primary author of FEA’s Timber Quarterly Forecasting Service publications and is a contributor to other FEA publications and studies.

Prior to FEA, Rocky worked at RISI Inc. from 2002-2009. At RISI, he was a key contributor to the analysis and production of RISI’s North American Timber Forecast.

He also co-authored numerous studies on a wide range of timber-related topics, including regional pulpwood studies and an assessment of North America’s emerging biomass industry.

Rocky holds a master’s degree in forest economics and management as well as a B.S. in forestry, both from Virginia Tech.

Goodnow will begin his Timber Market Update at 10:30 a.m. after the governor’s keynote address.

AFA Wins Communications Award

The Arkansas Society of Association Executives (ASAE) recently honored the Arkansas Forestry Association with an Excellence in Communications Award for a piece highlighting the Log a Load for Kids organization.

The video, posted online a year ago, was of the Howard family in Drew County, whose son had recently been treated at Arkansas Children’s. Cash was born at 29 weeks and spent 83 days in the NICU. He is now a happy, healthy two-year-old boy.

Cash’s mother Emily discussed their story in the winning video and what it was like to discover the Log a Load organization.

AFA’s Communications Coordinator Seth Stephenson attended ASAE’s Award Banquet in Little Rock to accept the award on the association’s behalf.

“All of us at AFA were very excited to hear that we won this award,” Stephenson said. “This video was a great way to further share the wonderful work our Log a Load for Kids chapters are doing every year.”

The association won the category of single piece with a budget under $500,000, which was one of three communications awards presented.

You can view this video for yourself on the Arkansas Forestry Association YouTube page at youtube.com/watch?v=3qhXy7cOdEk.

Dr. Lauren Ward, Forest Landowners Association Director of Stewardship Initiatives

Lauren joined the FLA staff as Director of Stewardship Initiatives in 2017, after serving as the Forest Landowner Foundation’s first Rob O Fellow in Forest Policy and Analysis.

Lauren earned her doctorate in Forest Resources at the University of Georgia’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, where she researched the perspectives of private forest landowners on the Endangered Species Act.

She also earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2007 and is a member of the State Bar of Georgia. Her interdisciplinary expertise in law and forestry provides her with a unique perspective on forest policy, stewardship, and advocacy.

Dr. Ward will provide insight into the collection and use of data for the Natural Woodland Owners Survey at 1 p.m. during the General Session.

Next month, we will highlight our final four speakers, all of whom will be participating in a panel titled Forests for the Future. This will be the last event of the General Session before the annual Fish Fry.

The annual meeting is just a little over a month away. Take advantage of early-bird pricing and register before September 10.

If you have any questions, please call the AFA Office at (501)374-2441. You can also register online at arkforests.org/event/AFA2019.
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