Arkansas Log a Load for Kids chapters wrapped up 2019 by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and making a few changes to their events.

The first September event took place in Sheridan with Central Arkansas Log a Load for Kids. This was their second fundraising opportunity of the year after holding a golf tournament in June. Attendees took part in a silent and live auction after a dinner of catfish at the Sheridan High School Cafeteria.

Dr. Brian Reemtsen, Director of the Heart Institute at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, spoke to the crowd about the importance of Log a Load and the role it plays in helping children across the state. He holds the Log a Load for Kids of Arkansas Endowed Chair for Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Arkansas Children’s.

The exact amount raised at the dinner is currently being determined, but they are expected to have raised around $160,000.

Bradley County Log a Load for Kids also held their barbecue dinner this month at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Warren. Jon Stone, one of the group’s leaders, said this was the biggest Log a Load event for Bradley County. The night started with a visit from Angel One, Arkansas Children’s flight team. The crew explained to the audience just how significant Log a Load is to what they do daily.

The Bradley County chapter of Log a Load recently went through a transition of organizers. Stone explained they have a new group of energized workers that worked well and are ready to try new things.

“We were able to get the community more involved than in the past,” Stone said.

“Sometimes, we were too comfortable just in our little group with the way we always did it. The other thing that sticks out was the opportunity for the connection with Children’s through Angel One and their mission.”

Thanks to the hard work of these volunteers, the group raised $82,000, which is a new record. Stone said this amount is about $25,000 more than they raised last year.

Next month, Allen Farley, one of the leaders of the River Valley Log a Load for Kids chapter, will discuss their dinner and auction, which concludes the state’s events for the year.

We are very excited to see the success our program has had this year. Thank you to everyone who attended the events to help us help children.

Angel One lands at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Warren during the Bradley County Log a Load for Kids event.
AFAEF to Hold Two Card Drawings, Silent Auction at Annual Meeting

Attendees can purchase a chance to win a Savage 110 Apex Hunter XP rifle at the Fish Fry card drawing Wednesday, October 9.

At this year's annual meeting, The Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation will hold two different card drawings to raise money for education around the state.

The first will be at the opening reception for a Winchester SXP Waterfowl Hunter 12-gauge shotgun. Two decks of playing cards will be sold at $10 per card.

The second will be during our Fish Fry on Wednesday, October 9 and the gun up for grabs is a Savage 110 Apex Hunter XP.

The bolt-action, 223 REM caliber gun features a redesigned Model 110 rifle with a 3-9x40mm Vortex Crossfire II scope that is mounted and bore-sighted. The Dead-Hold BDC reticle's hashmark design reduces the guesswork on holdover and windage.

The gun has Vortex Hunter medium rings and a one-piece EGW 0 MOA rail. There is a user-adjustable AccuTrigger and length-of-pull. It also features a detachable box magazine, modern ergonomics and a magazine capacity of 4.

Three decks of playing cards will be sold at $10 per card during the Fish Fry at Riggs Cat for the chance to win the rifle.

As with the gun featured in August's Tree Talk, all the proceeds from this drawing will go to help AFAEF Director of Forestry Education Rob Beadel deliver

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Poll Yard: Identifying, Controlling the Invasive Chinese Tallow Tree

Several AFA members helped us last month identify Chinese Tallow trees on their property to help the Arkansas Forest Resources Center map the invasive species around the state. What is it about this tree that qualifies it as an invasive species?

The Chinese Tallow Tree is a short-lived, fast-growing tree native to eastern Asia. Photo taken by Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

What puts the Chinese Tallow in the invasive species category though, is how difficult it is to control.

bottom. In the fall, the leaves can change to a yellow, red, or orange color. The bark can be light or dark gray and furrowed. It can grow up to 60 feet and be about three feet in diameter.

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AFAEF Card Drawings, con’t.

Bidding will last until the Awards Breakfast break on Thursday, October 10.

A list of silent auction donors will be included in the Annual Meeting Program Book.

education classes in Arkansas. Funds used to purchase the gun for this card drawing were donated by International Paper.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to bid for various donated items during the silent auction, which will be located in the exhibit hall.

Speaker Spotlight Part 2, con’t.

Arkansas in 1972, an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Arkansas in 1974 and a Juris Doctor in Law from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock School of Law in 1991.

Dr. Mark Cochran, U of A System Division of Agriculture

Dr. Cochran has served as Vice President for Agriculture of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture since January 2011. As Vice President, he is responsible for leading the University System’s coordinated agriculture program including the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agriculture Experiment Station, a combined 1,200 employees with a presence in all 75 counties. The Division has a unique mission of serving statewide agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices.

Louisa Daniels, Green Bay Packaging

Louisa is a proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison where she earned her B.S. in Forest Science. She moved to Arkansas in 2014 for a job with Green Bay Packaging’s Pinecrest Lumber division as their Safety and Environmental Manager. In July of 2016, she joined Arkansas Kraft Division as the Manager of Training and Governmental Affairs and most recently added Quality to her role in July of 2018. Louisa is active in AFA, FRA, AFPC, and Arkansas West Central Workforce Development Board.

Joe Fox, Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division

Joe Fox serves as state forester for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, where he directs the state’s Division of Forestry. He joined in May of 2012. Preceding the division, he was the Director of Conservation Forestry for the Arkansas Field Office of The Nature Conservancy. There, he directed and promoted conservation forestry project development, conservation planning, and forest land acquisition throughout the state. Fox is a native Arkansan who worked as a procurement forester in a family-owned lumber business in Pine Bluff and Sheridan for over 20 years. He is a former president of the Arkansas Forestry Association and former chairman of the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Joe is the past Chair of the Southern Group of State Foresters and currently serves as Vice President and a member of the Executive Committee and Chair for the Forest Resource Management Committee of the National Association of State Foresters. He holds two bachelor degrees from North Carolina State University in forestry and agricultural economics. Joe is married to Louise with five grown children and ten grandchildren.

These speakers will begin their panel discussion at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9. Registration is still available for those wanting to attend.

You can do that at arkforests.org/event/AFA2019. If you have any questions, you can call the AFA office at (501)374-2441.

Poll Yard: Chinese Tallow Tree, con’t.

In the fall, the leaves of the Chinese Tallow tree can turn red, orange, or yellow. Photo taken by James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

The state of Arkansas realizes the need to remove invasive species like the Chinese Tallow and recently created the Arkansas Invasive Species Committee. This group utilizes the iNaturalist website called “Invasive Plants of the Natural State” to encourage citizen reporting of invasive plants. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is also partnering with the City of Little Rock to demonstrate control methods for the Chinese Tallow at Two Rivers Park. This project will advocate for the removal of the tree and other invasive trees from public spaces to preserve native flora and fauna.

This fall, the project team hopes to identify locations of the invasive tree in the park and begin implementing control measures. Beginning in the spring and summer of 2020, they plan to have a Tallow Tree Control Demonstration Day to show the public how to properly identify and remove the Chinese Tallow.

The Arkansas Invasive Plants Committee asks that you report any Chinese Tallow by visiting their iNaturalist site at inaturalist.org/projects/chinese-tallow.
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