Habitat for Humanity “Forestry Build” Breaks Ground

The Habitat for Humanity project known as the “Forestry Build” broke ground earlier this month as the first step to providing a home to a single mother and her three children with the help of Arkansas’s forestry community.

Friends, family, and forestry representatives could be seen at the site of Pope’s new home on April 4. Support for this project was spearheaded by Resource Management Services (RMS) and their goal was to get as many forest industry groups involved with this build as possible. With donations from the industry, Habitat for Humanity dubbed this project the “Forestry Build”.

Mary Kay Greer, the Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications with RMS explained that they have been working with Habitat for Humanity for about five years. She said their company wanted to do a little more for those in the areas they work in, and Habitat was the perfect partner.

Since then, they have built houses in various southern states including Alabama, Mississippi, and now Arkansas.

On their first build, Greer said they made all their donations to one home. From there, they have been partnering with other groups for in-kind donations to help build two homes each year.

Greer said the last build they took part in, continued on page 3

Only a Few Days Left to Purchase AFA Night with the Travs Tickets

Join AFA May 27 for our Night with the Travs event at Dickey-Stephens Park.

Tickets for the Arkansas Forestry Association’s Night with the Travs event are still available but you only have a little over a week to get your orders in.

Attendees will be able to find the AFA staff under the bridge leading to the stadium to pick up their tickets before the gates open at 6:05 p.m. From there, we will gather at the Track’s Inn Picnic Area near right field.

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Mike Pennington Named Monticello Man of the Year

Many around the state most likely know Pennington through his work in the forestry industry. He is the owner of LD, Inc., and holds many different leadership positions in various organizations including the Arkansas Forestry Association, Arkansas Timber Producers Association, and Drew County Farm Bureau.

The Monticello Chamber of Commerce presented the award to Pennington at a banquet in late March. In his acceptance speech, he said when he first got the phone call informing him of his award, he thought it might be a prank. He said he knew the person who had called and that it was in fact the real deal.

“You only get out of the community what you put back,” Pennington went on to say. “The more we put back, the more we get out.”

He said he was very proud to be there and to receive the honoring. If you would like to see him receiving his award, Monticello Live has a clip available online. You can visit http://www.monticellolive.com/man-of-the-year-mike-pennington-video/to view it.

Night with the Travs Tickets, con’t.

where we will have food available including burgers, chicken, and hot dogs.
First pitch is scheduled for 7:05.

If you haven’t done so yet, you can purchase your tickets for the event at tinyurl.com/ATravs22.

Night with the Travs tickets is May 12.

Forest Division Releases 2021 Wildfire Information

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture recently released their 2021 Arkansas Fire Summary data, which showed that wildfires for 2021 were larger in size compared to the 10-year average.

Last year, 888 wildfires burned 16,537 acres across the state. According to the summary, this is the 4th lowest wildfire frequency in 10 years. The fires this year had an average size of 19.2 acres, which is 3.3 acres more than the 10-year average.

In total, 22 wildfires reached 100+ acres. Additionally, 448 homes were threatened by wildfire that equals a total of 331,090,748 and 26 homes with a value of $3,128,000 were lost. There were also 353 outbuildings threatened with a value of $10,812,926. The total amount of outbuildings lost were 36 with a value of $638,001.

The top three counties that saw the highest number of fires were Clark County with 46, Grant County with 39, and Hot Spring County with 34. The summary shows that the biggest cause of wildfires in 2021 was debris burning. This action caused 476 fires, which is 6.6% of all the wildfires in the year. Incendiary burning (arson) and miscellaneous burns follow with 177 and 89 fires caused respectively.

The most common periods for wildfire in Arkansas run from February through April and August through October. This is due to low humidity, dry vegetation, and gusty winds. For 2021, the highest wildfire frequency month was March. Drought conditions in some parts of Arkansas during that month were a factor in the 192 wildfires that burned 5,190 acres in that time.

The Arkansas Forestry Association would like to thank the brave men and women of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture - Forest Division who work diligently every year to fight these wildfires that threaten our state’s forests. If you would like to see the 2021 Wildfire Summary in full, you can find the PDF at arkforests.org/page/media.