

Renewal Reminder

It's that time of year again. If your community has not yet renewed its Firewise Communities/USA recognition status, it's time to finish up those mitigation projects and send in your renewal application.



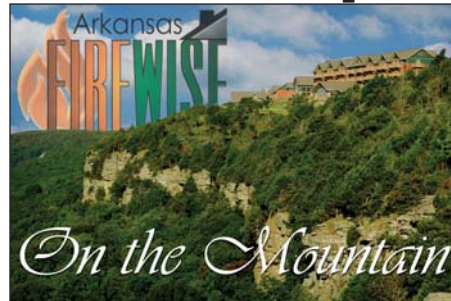
Communities that have not yet renewed for 2007 are:

- Blue Eye
- Cairo
- Cecil
- Cherokee Village
- Dallas Valley
- Fayetteville
- Green Forest
- Hartman
- Holley Mountain Airpark
- Hollis
- Hunt
- Kingston
- Ludwig-Lakewood
- Lutherville-Holman
- Maple
- Nella
- Nimrod
- Oak Grove
- Ozark
- Ozark Country Estates
- Pencil Bluff
- Pine Ridge
- Point Cedar
- Sims
- 250
- Wedington
- Y-City
- Yocum

The deadline to submit a renewal application is Dec. 31. To download a copy of the application, or to complete the form online, visit www.firewise.org/usa/app_renewal.htm.

FireWise on the Mountain Highlights Accomplishments

On Oct. 23, nearly 170 Firewise board members, AFC, U.S. Forest Service, state and local government officials gathered at the Lodge at Mount Magazine State Park for the largest ever Arkansas FireWise event — FireWise on the Mountain.



Tony Siciliano, and a luncheon and recognition ceremony during which Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe presented plaques to 16 Firewise Communities/USA and two Arkansas State Parks.

Dr. Kelly Hurt, Arkansas FireWise consultant, and Jack Deaton, Holiday Island

The day's events included presentations by Dr. Kelly Hurt, Jack Deaton and

*Please see **Highlights** on page 2*

Sicilianos Receive National Firewise Leadership Award

Tony and Patricia Siciliano, Arkansas FireWise consultants, were presented a National Firewise Leadership Award on Oct. 23 at the Lodge at Mount Magazine State Park. The plaque was presented to the couple by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe.

The Firewise Leadership Awards are designed to honor individuals and organizations conducting wildland fire mitigation activities in residential developments in the wildland/urban interface. Winners were selected based on their efforts on the local, state and regional level. Tony and Patricia have been recognized for their extensive efforts spanning three counties in providing risk assessment training, assisting with community wildfire protection plans, organizing a Firewise educational event and mitigation project, and leading the communities' efforts to earn Firewise Communities/USA designation.

"Pat and I are honored to be recognized," said Tony Siciliano. "Our reward was being given the opportunity of working with all these great communities.

*Please see **Siciliano** on page 3*



Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe presents Patricia and Tony Siciliano with the National Firewise Leadership Award on Oct. 23 at the Lodge at Mount Magazine State Park.



David Samuel
Arkansas FireWise
Coordinator

Greetings from Arkansas FireWise

Wow, what an event on Mount Magazine to celebrate our success in 2007. FireWise on the Mountain provided the Arkansas FireWise team an opportunity to show Governor Beebe that Firewise is making a difference in many Arkansas communities.

Congratulations to the 11 new Firewise Communities/USA, five five-year Firewise Communities/USA, two Arkansas FireWise State Parks and the six Arkansas FireWise "Sparkplugs" the Governor recognized during the luncheon.

It appears that we will have another five to six new communities by the end of the year. We need your help in getting the remainder of our 2003-2006 recognized communities renewed this year, so we can finish the year with at least 70 Firewise Communities/USA.

Here are our goals for 2008:

- Continue to teach homeowners at risk about Firewise.
- Recruit at least 30 new communities (including number 100) by Oct. 31.
- Assist current recognized communities with mitigation projects and renewals.
- Provide participating fire departments mitigation grants for equipment and personal protective equipment.
- Support Arkansas State Parks in reducing risks from wildland fires.

Keep up the good work and be Firewise Arkansas.

David J. Samuel, CF, RF
FireWise Coordinator
Arkansas Forestry Commission

Highlights

Continued from page 1
Fire Chief, provided an overview of the results of a recent reassessment of Holiday Island — a fifth year Firewise Community/USA.

Tony Siciliano shared his success working with rural communities in Boone, Carroll and Madison Counties, and the benefits these communities receive from participating in the Firewise recognition program.

Following a short break, Governor Beebe joined the gathering and visited with a number of attendees including Rep. John Paul Wells and White County Judge Michael Lincoln. State Forester John Shannon provided the introduction for the Governor.

Governor Beebe expressed a respect for the efforts made by firefighters to protect lives and property, and thanked those attending for making the Firewise recognition program such a success in Arkansas. Currently, Arkansas leads the nation with 68 Firewise Communities/USA.



Governor Mike Beebe presented awards of outstanding accomplishment to Lowell Altom, White County Ranger II; Chris Ludwig, Union County Ranger III; Billy Williams, Pike County Ranger III, and Roy Neil May, Clark County Ranger III.

The recognition ceremony began with the presentation of plaques to the newly recognized Firewise Communities/USA — Antoine, Caddo Valley, Camp Albert Pike, Carrollton, Higginson, Langley, Meeks Settlement, Mt. Holly, Newhope, Paris and Pleasant Plains.

Please see **Highlights** on page 3

John Shannon
State Forester

Don McBride
Assistant State Forester
Protection

David Samuel
Arkansas FireWise Coordinator
Christina Fowler
Information Officer

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Highlights

Continued from page 2

Five fifth-year Firewise Communities — Holiday Island, Joplin, Norman, Oden and Story — were honored for their continuing efforts to reduce the wildfire risk in their communities and maintaining Firewise Communities/USA status.

Plaques were also presented to representatives from Lake Catherine State Park and Mount Magazine State Park in recognition of their efforts to reduce the wildfire risk to structures within the state park boundaries.

Lowell Altom, White County Ranger II; Chris Ludwig, Union County Ranger III; Roy Neil May, Clark County Ranger III, and Billy Williams, Pike County Ranger III, were presented awards of outstanding accomplishment for their efforts in aiding communities working through the Firewise Communities/USA recognition process. Dr. Kelly Hurt, Firewise consultant, was presented an award of outstanding accomplishment for his work with the communities of Eureka Springs, Bella Vista Village, Fayetteville, Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village and Fairfield Bay.

Wrapping up the awards presentation, local Firewise consultants Tony and Patricia Siciliano, were presented the National Firewise Leadership Award recognizing their outstanding efforts in promoting a cooperative approach to reducing the loss of lives, property and resources in the wildland/urban interface.

Following the awards presentation, a training session was held for Arkansas Forestry Commission and U.S. Forest Service personnel who work closely with rural and volunteer fire departments on wildfires and wildfire mitigation projects.

Christina Fowler, Information Officer, provided a brief overview of the resources available on the Arkansas FireWise web site, www.arkansasfirewise.com, as well as brochures and exhibits available for use during commu-



Governor Mike Beebe presents Dr. Kelly Hurt, Arkansas FireWise consultant, with an award of outstanding accomplishment during FireWise on the Mountain.

nity gatherings and Firewise days.

David Samuel, Arkansas FireWise Coordinator, provided an overview of the Firewise Communities/USA certification process, and what is required of communities wishing to renew.

Larry Nance, Deputy State Forester, provided ideas on how County Rangers can assist fire departments working through the recognition process, and encouraged them to recruit at least one community in their county in the next year. Roger Fryar, Assistant Fire Team Leader, Ouachita/Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, also encouraged U.S. Forest Service Fire Management Officers to assist communities working through the recognition process.

The day wrapped up with questions from attendees and a brief closeout by Don McBride, Assistant State Forester-Protection.

For more information about the Firewise Communities/USA recognition process in Arkansas, visit www.arkansasfirewise.com, or call 1-501-603-3545.

Siciliano

Continued from page 1

We've met so many great people. We've been very fortunate to be involved with fire departments and residents from Boone, Carroll and Madison Counties. During our work with them, we've been invited to numerous affairs, cookouts and meetings. We were welcomed as friends and now we feel like we are part of their community family. We believe very strongly in the Firewise program and we hope that those

we talked to will continue on making their homes and surrounding areas safe."

"Tony and Patricia Siciliano's enthusiasm and dedication to the Firewise program is evident through the increased Firewise awareness among Northwest Arkansas fire departments, community leaders and homeowners," said David Samuel, Arkansas FireWise Coordinator.

Arkansas Firewise Communities/USA by Year Certified

2003

Holiday Island
Joplin
Norman
Oden
Ozark Country Estates
Pencil Bluff
Pine Ridge
Sims
Story

2004

Danville
Hartman
Hollis
Hunt
Inspiration Point
Ludwig-Lakewood
Lutherville-Holman
Nella
Nimrod
Norphlet
Ozark
Perry
Plainview
Strickler
250
Wedington

2005

Beaver
Cherokee Village
Eureka Springs
Fayetteville

2006

Alpena
Appleton
Bald Knob
Blue Eye
Cairo
Calion
Cecil
Coin
Dallas Valley
Denver
Diamondhead
Grassy Knob
Green Forest
Hatley
Holley Mountain Airpark
Hot Springs
Hugh
Kingston
Maple
Oak Grove
Point Cedar
Unity-Frost Prairie
Y-City
Yocum

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2007

Antoine
Caddo Valley
Camp Albert Pike
Carrollton
Cottonwood
Fairfield Bay
Higginson
Hot Springs Village
Meeks Settlement
Langley
Manning
Mt. Holly
Newhope
Paris
Pleasant Plains

Arkansas FireWise State Parks

Devils Den
Lake Catherine
Mount Magazine
Queen Wilhelmina

Communities Working To Become Firewise Communities/USA

Alpine
Amity
Batson-Oak Grove
Bearden
Bierne
Big Creek
Bradford
Buckville
Buena Vista
Cane Creek
Cass
Corinth
Crows
Daisy
Delight
Diamond City
Donaldson
Elliott-Bethesda
Forest Towers Community
Fouke
Frenchport
Friendship
Greenwood
Gum Springs
Hibanks
Huntington
Ico
Kensett
Lodi
Louann
Midway
Ozone
Poyen
Pangburn
Ratcliff
South Carroll County
South Lead Hill
Tull
Whelen Springs



A Firewise Communities/USA recognition ceremony for Hot Springs Village was held Oct. 15 on the Good Samarita Campus. Pictured from left are Jim Smalley, National Firewise Communities Program Manager; John Shannon, State Forester; Rep. Dan Greenberg, District 31; Janice Morrison, Firewise committee co-chair; Henry Browder, Firewise committee co-chair, and Dick Breckon, Property Owners Association board chair.

Hot Springs Village earns Firewise Recognition

Hot Springs Village earned Firewise Communities/USA recognition in October, and a recognition ceremony was held Oct. 15 in the Crystal Dining Room of the Good Samaritan Campus in Hot Springs Village.

Jim Smalley, National Firewise Communities Program Manager, served as the keynote speaker. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the community of Hot Springs Village were Janice Morrison, Firewise committee co-chair; Henry Browder, Firewise committee co-chair and Property Owners Association lakes and water management committee, and Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association Board Chair Dick Breckon. Presenting the plaque was Jim Smalley, National Firewise Communities Program Manager; John Shannon, State Forester, and State Representative Dan Greenberg, District 31.

Also attending the ceremony were Bob Shoemaker, POA vice chair; Teri Jackson, POA board member; Jeff Atkins, POA board member; Dave Johnston, POA General Manager; Linda Mayhood, POA Assistant to the General Manager; Firewise committee members Jim Gifford, POA trails committee; Carolyn Minson, POA trails committee; Bruce Caverly POA natural resources committee; Bob Brandt, POA architectural control committee, and Lt. Ricky Middleton, Village public safety officer; Trails Committee Chair John Tidquist; Hot Springs Village Voice Reporter Jeff Meek, and Arkansas Forestry Commission representatives David Samuel, Arkansas FireWise Coordinator; Christina Fowler, Information Officer; Don McBride, Assistant State Forester-Protection; Mark Reed, Fire Management Officer, and Robert McFarland, Staff Forester.

To view photos of the event, visit www.arkansasfirewise.com/informaton/boards/hotsprings-village/hotspringsvillage.htm.

Newly Recognized Firewise Communities/USA

The following are communities recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Firewise Communities/USA recognition for the first time in 2007.



Antoine and Meeks Settlement

Accepting plaques on behalf of the communities of Antoine and Meeks Settlement are Vance Teel, Antoine VFD Fire Chief; Debbie Van Camp and Heston Teel. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.



Caddo Valley

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Caddo Valley is Lt. David Suttle, Caddo Valley VFD. Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe and Roy Neil May, Clark County Ranger III (right).



Camp Albert Pike

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Camp Albert Pike are Janice and Denver McRae. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.



Carrollton

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Carrollton is Beth Randleman, Alpena VFD Fire Chief. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.

Newly Recognized Firewise Communities/USA

The following are communities recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Firewise Communities/USA recognition for the first time in 2007.



Higginson

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Higginson is Marvin Mathis, Higginson VFD Fire Chief (second from left). Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe, Lowell Altom, White County Ranger II, and White County Judge Michael Lincoln.



Langley

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Langley is Eddie Ayers, Langley Firewise board member (center). Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe and Billy Williams, Pike County Ranger III.



Mount Holly

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Mount Holly is Steve Rose, Mount Holly Assistant Fire Chief (center). Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe and Chris Ludwig, Union County Ranger III.



Newhope

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Newhope are Robert Jordan, Shona Jordan, Kenneth Fant, AFC Ranger II, and Sandra Hunt. Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe and Billy Williams, Pike County Ranger III.

Newly Recognized Firewise Communities/USA

The following are communities recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Firewise Communities/USA recognition for the first time in 2007.



Paris

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Paris are Harold Schluterman and Rep. John Paul Wells. Also pictured are Todd Hoopes, U.S. Forest Service Fire Management Officer (far left), Governor Mike Beebe and Dennis Ahne, Logan County Ranger III.



Pleasant Plains

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Pleasant Plains are Rick Siler, Pleasant Plains Mayor, and Stacey Caplener, Pleasant Plains Fire Chief. Also pictured are Governor Mike Beebe, Lowell Altom, White County Ranger II and White County Judge Michael Lincoln.

Fifth Year Firewise Communities/USA

The following are communities recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Firewise Communities/USA recognition for the fifth straight year.



Holiday Island

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Holiday Island are Jack Deaton, Holiday Island Fire Chief; Connie Deaton and Tony Siciliano. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.



Joplin

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Joplin are Bob Bochik, Tera Bochik, Glen Mayle, Ken Mattson, Bill Barnes, Colleen Helms, Debi Barnes and Rita Arnett. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.

Fifth Year Firewise Communities/USA

The following are communities recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Firewise Communities/USA recognition for the fifth straight year.



Norman

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Norman are Tim Turner, Teresa Turner and Myrtle Parish. Also pictured are Ben Rowland, Fire Program Manager, Ouachita National Forest, Caddo/Womble Ranger District (far left), and Governor Mike Beebe.



Oden

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Oden are Horace Lawrence, Latresa Lawrence, Jeannette Fryar and Tommy Fryar. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.



Story

Accepting a plaque on behalf of the community of Story are Dale Morris and Earl Gene White. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.



David Samuel, Arkansas FireWise Coordinator, served as Master of Ceremonies for FireWise on the Mountain. Additional photos taken during the event can be viewed online at www.arkansasfirewise.com/information/2007recognitionday/2007recognitionday.htm.

Arkansas FireWise State Parks

The following are Arkansas State Parks recognized at Mt. Magazine State Park that received Arkansas FireWise recognition for 2007.



Lake Catherine State Park

Accepting a plaque on behalf of Lake Catherine State Park are Bill Saunders, Lake Catherine State Park Superintendent, and Richard Boyes. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.

Mt. Magazine State Park

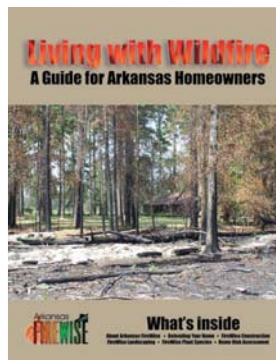
Accepting a plaque on behalf of Mt. Magazine State Park are Becky Bariola, Mt. Magazine State Park Superintendent, and Doug Carter, Park Ranger. Also pictured is Governor Mike Beebe.

Tabletop Display, Homeowner Guides Available

A trifold, tabletop exhibit is available for use by communities working to obtain or renew Firewise Communities/USA certification. The exhibit can be used during county and community fairs, or other outreach events.

The tabletop exhibit will be rotated throughout the state, so please reserve it at least two weeks in advance.

Copies of "Living with Wildfire: A Guide for Arkansas Homeowners" are available for distribution during outreach events, or can be placed in businesses in the community.



The guide includes information about creating a defensible space, a Firewise plant list, and landscaping and construction checklists homeowners can use to determine if their home is "Firewise."

To reserve a tabletop display or request homeowner guides, please call Christina Fowler, Information Officer, at 1-501-603-3545 or e-mail christina.fowler@arkansas.gov. To view a copy of "Living with Wildfire: A Guide for Arkansas Homeowners" visit www.arkansasfirewise.com/publications/livingwithfire.pdf.



Additional information about each of the 65 Firewise Communities/USA in Arkansas can be found at www.arkansasfirewise.com.



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Coming Soon ...



Holiday Island Reassessment Results

Dr. Kelly Hurt (left), Arkansas Fire-Wise consultant, and Jack Deaton, Holiday Island Fire Chief, provided an overview of the results of a recent reassessment of Holiday Island, a fifth year Firewise Community/USA, during FireWise on the Mountain Oct. 23. Look for details from his presentation in the next issue of FireWise in Action.