



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Buchanan County Students Help Reclaim Former Coal Loading Site at 14th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Buchanan County, Va.- Nearly 300 Buchanan County students helped with reclamation by planting 1,500 trees on four acres. White Oak, Black Oak, Sawtooth Oak, Red Oak, Pin Oak, Silky Dogwood, Black Cherry, Hawthornes and blight resistant American chestnuts are now growing.

The annual Arbor Day event, hosted by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), The Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance (VCEA) and the Virginia Oil and Gas Association (VOGA) teaches students about the importance of environmental protection during and after coal mining and natural gas production. “The Next Generation Planting the Future” served as the theme for the 14th Arbor Day celebration.

Since Arbor Day began in 2005 over 9,000 trees have been planted on 35 acres of mined land. That land will once again become a forest thanks to the work of students across southwest Virginia.

The planting site was the SunCoke Energy Oakwood Dock used for loading coal and coke into railroad cars for a number of years. It was once a part of the Beatrice Mine Site. Noah Horn Well Drilling hosted the students for the opening ceremonies and lunch. Students could also visit several education stations where they learned about reforestation, environmental protection, animals and their habitats and much more.

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An award was presented at the event for student artwork. Students submitted artwork based on the theme, “The Next Generation Planting the Future”. Amber Dotson, a sixth grade student at Riverview Elementary/Middle School took the top prize. Her design was featured on t-shirts worn by students at the event.

The event was sponsored by Savage Services, Noah Horn Well Drilling, Dominion Energy, SunCoke Energy- Jewell Operations, Buchanan Minerals-Coronado, Contura Energy, Landon Wyatt, Crickmer Company, EnerVest, Red River Coal, Coal Mining Engineering Services, West River Conveyors, Cumberland Surety, 3B Consulting Services and Appalachian Technical Services.

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