

GP makes dream hunt a reality for Louisiana teen

by Kelsey Wells

For Louisiana teen Keegan Vidrine and his family, Georgia Pacific's Monticello Mill and Catch-A-Dream provided a once in a lifetime weekend filled with outdoor activities, food,

and fun.

The weekend was the result of the hard work of Catch-A-Dream, whom GP has had the privilege of hosting many times since 2002. Catch-A-Dream is the product of the vision

of Bruce Brady, an avid outdoorsman who battled cancer. He wanted children with life-threatening illnesses to be able to have their dreams of hunting and fishing fulfilled, and rules had prohibited the use of weapons by children participating in the 'Make-A-Wish' Foundation activities. Though Brady passed away, his vision became a reality and has now served over 400 families and children in 44 states.

To qualify for Catch-A-Dream, a child must be 18 years of age or younger and have a life-threatening illness. He or she must also have a wish of hunting or fishing.

Fourteen year-old Keegan Vidrine and his family received the honor of this year's Catch-A-Dream hunt on Georgia-Pacific's private hunting land. They stayed in a guest house on the GP property and were treated to not only a hunting experience but also meals at local restaurants and fishing.

Keegan, his mother Cricket, his father Scott, and his younger brother Kole traveled from their Lafayette, La., home to Monticello last weekend. Keegan suffers from a congenital heart condition and other health problems.

Accompanied by hunt master Harold Griffith, Catch-A-Dream worker Brian Chisholm and his father, Keegan shot the allotted buck and doe during his first afternoon of hunting. Allen Morgan donated taxidermy services, as he has done for all the Catch-A-Dream hunters.

On Friday, The Bullet Hole indoor firing range in Brookhaven allowed Keegan to come and shoot for target practice.

Saturday, Georgia Pacific hosted a celebratory luncheon for Keegan, his family, mill workers involved with Catch-A-Dream, Catch-A-Dream workers, and media personnel. The Georgia Pacific Catfish Cooking Team provided a fried catfish feast with all the trimmings. Since Keegan would be celebrating his fifteenth birthday the following Wednesday, there was a special cake in his



Hunt master Harold Griffith, father Scott Vidrine, and Catch-A-Dream recipient Keegan Vidrine show off Keegan's nice six-point buck that he shot on the first afternoon of hunting.

honor and everyone sang "Happy Birthday."

Mill Manager Brent Collins expressed appreciation to Ray Melick, Shelia McFadden, and Melanie Sykes of GP for their hard work on this year's hunt. He also recognized hunt master Harold Griffith, the Catfish

workers Dr. Marty Brunson and Bryan Chisholm, and this year's recipients for their roles in the weekend's success.

Ray Melick, Public Affairs Manager for the mill, echoed Collins's appreciation to all involved.

Dr. Marty Brunson, executive director of Catch-A-Dream, had presentations for many of those involved, but especially for Keegan's family members. He recognized Keegan's younger brother, Kole, as an official member of the Catch-A-Dream Barnabas Club for his support of his brother and family. He also presented Keegan with a plaque and a camouflage Bible. He emphasized Catch-A-Dream's mission to share that "there are things that transcend the temporal" and encouraged Keegan and his family to cling to the promises of God written in the Bible.

Thanks to Georgia Pacific Monticello and Catch-A-Dream, Keegan and his family returned to Louisiana with a couple of deer, many memories, and new friends and supporters from Monticello.



Dr. Marty Brunson, executive director of Catch-A-Dream, presented Keegan with a camouflage Bible and explained the importance of the Scriptures' promises.

Cooking Team, Catch-A-Dream



Keegan's fifteenth birthday, which is today, was celebrated by the entire family, Georgia-Pacific, Catch-A-Dream, and media personnel with a Duck Dynasty cake at the luncheon on Saturday. From left, mother Cricket, little brother Kole, Keegan, and father Scott Vidrine celebrate a successful hunt and Keegan's upcoming birthday.

Civic Center Gala set for Friday, February 28

A date has been set for the annual Lawrence County Civic Center Winter Gala.

This year, the event will be held Friday night, February 28, to accommodate the schedule of a special guest.

Volunteers are busy making plans for this year's annual

Civic Center Gala fund-raiser and the event will celebrate the bicentennial of Territorial Lawrence County.

Committee members are working to confirm entertainment and there will be a drawing for a \$500 grand prize. Tickets to the event will be \$40.



Live nativity planing meeting Thursday

Supervisors consider inmate medical costs