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2nd Annual Hardwood Tree Museum Day will Feature Family Activities This Weekend

Fort Smith, AR — For the second year in a row, the Hardwood Tree Museum will be holding a public celebration of local hardwoods this Saturday and Sunday at the Janet Huckabee Center.

Saturday's event, which runs from 9am to 3pm, will feature live sawing and wood-turning demonstrations, exhibits about locally created wood products and the economic impact local hardwood trees have had on the area, programs about local furniture manufacturers (an industry that led to the city becoming the nation's largest furniture producer west of the Mississippi right after World War II), and guided talks along the museum's recently opened Herman J. Udouj Memorial Trail.

In addition, there will be special activities, games, and educational programs specifically for children – and will end with their own kid-friendly guided trail walk at 1pm by a former forester.

The exhibits, several of the presentations, and the guided trail talks will also be available on Sunday from 1pm to 3pm.

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Event Location: Inside and outside of the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, 8300 Wells Lake Rd, Fort Smith, AR 72916

Additional Photos Available: From last year's Museum Day and of the wood turners at past events.

About the Hardwood Tree Museum: Encouraged by a group of long-time residents of Fort Smith, including those in city government, the Fort Smith Museum of History, and the history department at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS), the Hardwood Tree Museum was formed as a tax exempt, non-profit public benefit corporation and organized in January 2009. Our work continues today – entirely with volunteers.

With assistance from the history department at UAFS, we are presently involved in a continuing effort of collecting exhibit artifacts, documents, and interviews. Using land donated by Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, we plan to build our facility in a forest setting near the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center in Fort Smith. Our partnership with the Nature Center enables us to work on activities of mutual interest, including the identifying and marking of existing trees, planting additional species of hardwood trees and other native flora, landscaping, and developing outside exhibits.