

2014 Missouri Community Betterment Adult Leadership Award Nomination.

Tod Kinerk is nominated for his concept and role in development of Timber Fun Day and Parade in Dent County, starting on Labor Day of 2013.

The wood industry has been a vital part of Ozark history for more than 150 years. It was the abundance of trees that inspired the development of the early iron smelting furnace and as a generous supply of railroad ties.

Tod has been a professional forester for all his working career. He is a graduate of the Perdue University School of Forestry in 1962 and has spent many years working with the United States Forest Service to preserve and efficiently utilize our rich abundance of trees that have been growing in this area for hundreds of years. He is actively sought out as a forestry advisor and operates his own specialty saw milling business.

It was Tod's knowledge of the timber industry that led him to develop the idea for a day to recognize a very important industry that is fragmented and rarely recognized for the economic impact it has on Dent and surrounding counties.

Tod discussed the idea with his friend, and business associate, Sherman Odom. From this was born the idea to invite a group of people who would look at the possibility, and assess its merit. The group came together and the enthusiasm was evident from the first meeting.

Tod led the group as they spent hundreds of hours developing the concept of a recognition celebration for a long time under-recognized industry. Activities, marketing plans, scheduling and overall planning attracted many others as the concept seemed to mushroom. The end result was that Tod's thoughts and knowledge became a huge success for the celebration held at "The Commons" in Dent County on Labor Day 2013. Several thousand people enjoyed a parade through downtown Salem and the entire day of realizing what was all around just waiting to be highlighted and recognized.

The Day included timber identification, competitive sawing, tie splitting, log harvesting demonstrations, carvings from wood, other creations from wood and children's games, to name a few. The day also provided local music and free food for all in attendance.

Tod is continually active in the community working in the Rotary Club, his church and other civic activities. He is a veteran and works to support veteran's activities and has led several country loyalty programs. He works to properly retire flags, create local veteran's parade floats and supports annual display of flags days.

It is a great pleasure to nominate Tod Kinerk for bringing forth an idea and plan that celebrates local heritage as we preserve an important part of the history of south-central Missouri. The event is in active planning for Labor Day 2014 with Tod leading again. He is truly worthy of receiving the MCB Adult Leadership Award.