

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2009

Contacts:

Brad Cardwell, Wildlife Habitat Council, 240-247-0930, bcardwell@wildlifehc.org

Joyce Watson, Oldcastle Materials, 770-522-5605, joyce.watson@oldcastlematerials.com

APAC- MC CLINTON ANCHOR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AWARD

BALTIMORE, MD—Employees at APAC-McClinton Anchor Gravette Quarry Site, an Oldcastle Materials company, received international recognition for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 21st Annual Symposium, *Evergreen: A Celebration of Conservation in a Changing World*. Oldcastle Materials demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving *Wildlife at Work*SM certification at the Gravette Quarry Site.

“The Wildlife Habitat Council believes that collaboration among all stakeholder groups is critical to addressing the complex issues facing the sustainability of the planet,” said Robert Johnson, WHC President. “WHC members take a leading role in connecting community stakeholders through wildlife habitat enhancement, community outreach and conservation education. Congratulations to Oldcastle Materials for their commitment to a healthy natural world and connected communities.”

The Gravette Quarry site covers 3,500 acres in the extreme northwest corner of Arkansas. Only 200 acres have been set aside for quarry operations at this time; the remaining 3,300 are available for wildlife management pending quarry expansion. The majority of the acreage is dense hardwood forest, with oak-hickory communities dominating. The site also has 20 acres of lakes, 310 acres of seasonal creek bottoms and 200 acres of plateau fields. A core group of five employees make up the wildlife team, with other employees, their families and retired employees also taking part in projects.

In 2007, site management excavated a seven-acre lake for storm water control. The wildlife team included plans for aquatic wildlife habitat from the start. Brush piles and rock piles were incorporated into the interior of the lake bed to provide underwater habitat. The lake, along with on site ponds will provide rest areas for the migratory waterfowl that frequent the site during the fall and winter months.

Another goal of the wildlife team is to increase pollinator diversity. In March 2009 the team seeded a three-acre plateau with native wildflowers known for their benefits to pollinators, such as Joe pyeweed, blazing star and tickseed. Before seeding, the County Extension service tested the soil and recommended appropriate soil amendments. Team members will monitor the meadow twice a year at permanent observation sites to observe changes over time. The meadow will be maintained by rotational mowing.

Representatives from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) visited the Gravette Quarry site to evaluate the area for deer habitat. The wildlife team began a sustainable deer management program by installing 25 acres of plantings for deer and creating brush piles in conjunction with clearing activities. Team members conducted deer spotlight and pellet count surveys, and developed a regulated hunting program to better manage the herd. The Gravette Quarry site submits the harvest data to AGFC as part of the state's Deer Management Assistance Program.

-MORE-

The Gravette Quarry Site was one of 238 sites recognized at the 2009 Symposium for creating a *Wildlife at Work* program. In addition, 47 *Corporate Lands for LearningSM* (CLL) programs were recognized, reaching thousands of learners from schools and scout groups to master gardeners and university researchers. Since 1990, WHC has certified 560 *Wildlife at Work* and 113 CLL programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 48 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org.