

Forest Heritage



Firefighter Facelift

From the Chairman

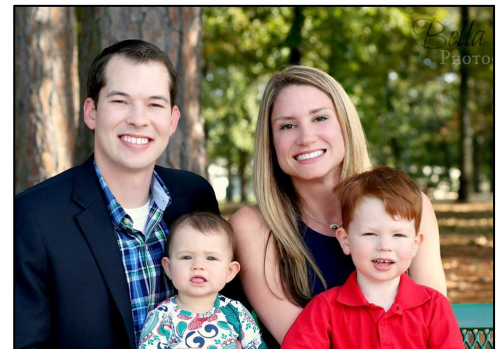
Welcome! On behalf of the FHC Board of Directors, I'd like to express my genuine appreciation to you for taking time to stay in touch with us here in Beavers Bend State Park; one of the best kept secrets in Oklahoma. Please let me tell you a little about the Forest Heritage Center Board of Directors and the role it serves at the museum.

We are comprised of 18 passionate, community volunteers who understand the importance of the forest industry and are dedicated to maintaining and enriching the fantastic resource that is the FHC museum. Our main role is to help dream up, implement, and oversee all the fun and exciting programming and events.

We are having a fantastic spring. Despite the nearly record amount of rainfall, we have stayed very busy! Inside you will read details of our thrilling recent programming events and the "can't miss" opportunities available this summer. Alongside this, one of our main areas of focus is strengthening our relationships with our partners on the state and local level. Our progress in that area lately is unprecedented and the future outlook continues to be very high. We are planning more exhibit improvements in 2019 in the courtyard, including work on the post office and cabin. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department has a monumental capital improvement planned this year on the lobby of the FHC and the Board of Directors is working independently with an exhibit design group to enhance interpretation and better display a consistent look throughout the museum. Thank you and stay tuned for more exciting news down the trail!

Teamwork was the theme as Darryl Pierce Tree Service, Oklahoma Forestry Services, the Ft. Towson Historic Site, youth volunteers, and FHC staff worked together to update the Oklahoma Wildland Firefighter Memorial on March 1st and 2nd. The team hauled 14 tons of rock and an ancient Bois d'arc into the courtyard to add to the interpretation of the memorial. The firefighter now walks through a rugged landscape, surveying the horizon for any threat to the forest and people he protects.

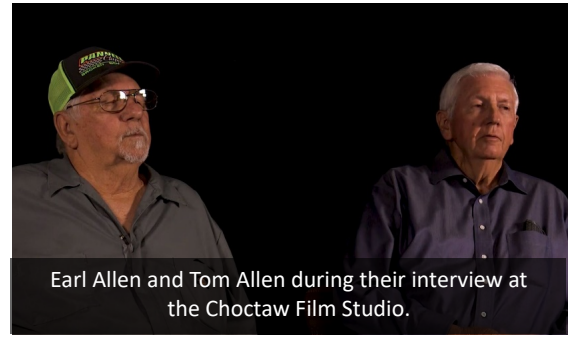
The monument was erected to honor fallen Oklahoma Forestry Services firefighter Jim Burnett who lost his life in the 2000 Kate's Basin Fire in Thermopolis, Wyoming.



Pete Herron is a 4th generation forester in Oklahoma and has served as the chairman of the FHC Board of Directors since 2016.

Traveling Timber Towns Memories Caught on Film

Brothers Tom and Earl Allen traveled with Austin Lindly to the Choctaw Film Studio in Durant so we could capture on film the memories of the Traveling Timber Towns and early day sawmill town Wright City. Tom and Earl's dad was an engineer on the iconic Engine 227 now located at the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce, and Austin's dad was a teacher at the school in Wright City. This video and another featuring Tom Balisle, will be added to our People of the Forest Gallery soon. Thanks to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for helping us to preserve this fascinating part of Oklahoma's history.



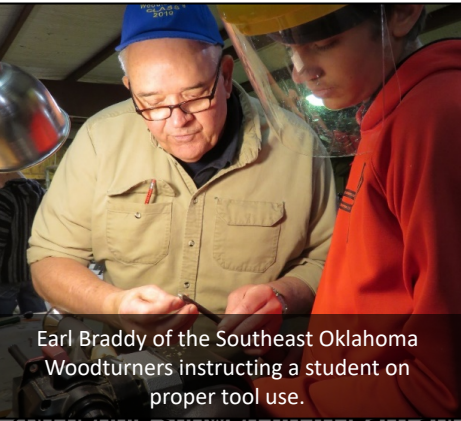
Earl Allen and Tom Allen during their interview at the Choctaw Film Studio.

Find the video of the Allen brothers and Mr. Lindly at <https://youtu.be/z62-DTRgNAw> and Mr. Balisle's video at https://youtu.be/cioY_7pBSqs.

Woodturning Classes

For a three week period from February 19th through March 8th, the Forest Heritage Center and Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners teamed up for woodturning classes at the Broken Bow Carpentry Shop. During the classes, six evening classes were offered to students. The classes introduced students to the art of woodturning and the basics of tree identification using wood grain and wood grain analysis. During the three week period, six evening classes were offered to students. The classes included a Women's Woodturning Retreat.

During the classes, students turned out bowls, planters, and containers. During the three week period, over 200 people showed up to learn about wood turning.



Earl Braddy of the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners instructing a student on proper tool use.

Wood turning and all wood art brings additional value to the forest and makes use of parts of trees that would otherwise be discarded or added to landfills, making it a very important value-added forestry product.



Student Artist of the Year Brandon Morgan, Master Woodworking Artist of the Year Wayne Delyea, and Local Artist of the Year Darrell Whisenhunt.



FHC Staffer Calista Stephens visiting with State Forester Mark Goeller during Ag Day at the Capitol

Master Woodworking Artist of the Year Named at the FHC

17 artists shared their talent with us during the 8th annual Master Woodworking Artist of the Year competition. Each contribution to the show added unique elements with a cross section of techniques including wood turning, fine furniture, marquetry, carving and sculpting. As the official "Wood Art Capitol of Oklahoma", the Forest Heritage Center has the privilege of naming Oklahoma's Master Woodworking Artist of the Year. The honor this year went to Wayne Delyea of Granbury, TX.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Forestry was well represented on April 2nd at Ag Day at the Capitol. FHC Board Chairman Pete Herron and staffer Calista Stephens shared the mission and programs of the museum with visitors. Rounding out the presence of forestry during the event were representatives from the Oklahoma Forestry Association and Oklahoma Forestry Services, including Oklahoma State Forester Mark Goeller (pictured).

The event is designed to highlight the abundance of agricultural products and experiences that are available in the state. The FHC's representatives were especially excited to see great tree products being promoted such as pecans, jellies, fruit cobblers, and beautiful wood art.

Kids In Action: Camp Discover and Forestry Youth Camp

Registration is now open for Camp Discover, a day camp for children ages 9-11. The theme for this year's camp is "Tree Detectives" and will feature activities that combine the great outdoors with hands-on, engaging art activities. A few of the workshops are pillow making with leaf rubbings, ice cream making, and being Tree Detectives on the educational Tree Trail. Registration for Camp Discover is limited so go to <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/camp-discover> to find applications.

For youth age 13-16 Oklahoma Forestry Services and the Forest Heritage Center are hosting the 63rd Forestry Youth Camp. The diverse forest of Beavers Bend State Park provides the perfect setting to introduce teens to the basic concepts of forestry, and during a field trip they will see some members of the forestry community in action at a real Weyerhaeuser logging site. This year's camp is June 3-8. To learn more about Oklahoma's Forestry Youth Camp visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/forestrycamp>.



Cheyenne Childs (above) plants a tree using compost during Camp Discover, and Adia Reid (left) enjoys a field trip to a Weyerhaeuser logging site during Forestry Youth Camp.

Owa-Chito Forestry Luncheon: A Celebration of Forestry's Leaders



FHC Board Member Ed Hurliman presenting Rick Harder with the 2018 Heritage Forester award.

As part of the festivities for the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest, the annual Forestry Luncheon will be held on June 20, 2019 at the Museum of the Red River in Idabel, OK. A cross-section of forestry professionals and community leaders will assemble to recognize a Youth Volunteer of the Year and Friend of the Forest as individuals who go over and above to help the Forest Heritage Center and our goal of telling the story of sustainable forestry, as well as a Heritage Forester, a forester who exemplifies the forestry community's professionalism, service and innovation and is a role model for other members of the profession.

For the second year the recipients of the Forest Heritage Center's scholarships will be recognized. The FHC offers three scholarships annually, the Quintus Herron Scholarship for graduating seniors, the Fred Dierks scholarship for college forestry students, and the New Growth Educational Stipend for educators who wish to include forestry as part of their program. To learn more about the scholarship program go to <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/fhc-scholarships>.

Upcoming Events


- **Forestry Luncheon**-June 20
- **Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest**-June 20-22
- **Owa Chito Student Art Show**-June 21-22
- **Smokey Bear Birthday Bash**-June 22
- **Camp Discover: Art of the Forest**-July 9-11
- **Masters At Work Woodturning Competition**-September 13-14, opening on the 15th
- **Beavers Bend Folk Festival and Craft Show**-November 8-10



Smokey Bear 75th Birthday Party

It's party planning time as we prepare to celebrate Smokey Bear's 75th birthday! The fun will be at the Forest Heritage Center on June 22nd from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Along with a Smokey-themed Student Art Show, our halls will be decked out for a birthday bash complete with cookies, punch, party games, and a Smokey Screening Room. Friends from the US Forest Service and Oklahoma Forestry Service will help Smokey spread the message of wildfire prevention.

Quarterly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center Museum

For more information about the Forest Heritage Center and our programs, e-mail us at FHC@beaversbend.com, give us a call at 580-494-6497, or find us on Facebook. 

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Toys of the Trade

During the 1930's a little boy named Earl Allen spent his time watching his daddy and the other men of the Traveling Timber Towns as they harvested the plentiful timber that grew in the hills of Southeast Oklahoma. Some of Earl's earliest memories are of watching the mules haul their wagons loaded with logs on the two mile trail to the railroad near the Clebit camp. After the mules were sole to "Preacher Kenny" Earl watched in amazement as the new gas-powered log hauling trucks rolled into camp and ushered the forestry industry into the 20th century.

His fascination with log trucks and equipment led Earl to a career in the forestry industry as he worked in the log woods, hauled logs, and worked in the "truck shop" at the Wright City plywood mill until he retired in 1989. Today Earl enjoys preserving the history of forestry by recreating the equipment that has evolved from trucks with no cabs or windshields and hard wooden blanks for driver seats, to the sleek and shiny big rigs, skidders and "low boys" of today.

Just as Earl Allen was inspired to be a part of forestry by the new "toys of the trade", today's youngsters are witnessing a transformation in the way the business is run with the implementation of new technology such as mapping software, drones, and helicopters. From the first log trucks to state-of-the-art advances in technology, "toys of the trade" continue to inspire young people of all ages.

