

Forest



Heritage



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Lighting Upgrade for the Forest Heritage Center

When Choctaw Electric Cooperative found themselves with Energy Efficiency Dollars to spend they began to look for a way to invest those dollars into the community. They were looking for a project that would benefit the community as a whole, one that would be enjoyed by anyone of any origin. They were searching for a place that was in need of an upgrade and they found that place in the Forest Heritage Center Museum.

The FHC is in the beginning phases of some exciting new updates including a facelift for the museum's entrance. Choctaw Electric learned of the plans and suggested investing in this local museum which welcomes visitors to Beavers Bend State Park. Guests to the museum numbered 135,000 in 2018 and include the diverse demographic that the electric company was searching for. When Choctaw Electric representatives ran the idea by the Co-op's service provider, the response from Western Farmers Electric Co-Operative was an emphatic "Yes!"



Choctaw Electric's Brad Kendrick gathering data for lighting study

Courtyard Renovation

The recent work to the Firefighter Memorial marked the first stage of a major update to the courtyard of the Forest Heritage Center. Todd Johnson of Circa Digital presented a design study during the July meeting of the FHC's Board of Directors and was granted approval to move forward with the next phase of the project. The update will include an outdoor observation deck, concrete paths, and new signage and interpretive signage for the 120 year old cabin, the Old Hochatown Post Office, and the Firefighter Memorial, as seen in the photo above.

Johnson and Circa Digital have previously worked with the Forest Heritage Center on the award winning People of the Forest Gallery.

Choctaw Electric and WFEC have begun a project study which will measure the energy saved with the new LED lighting, and representatives are working with museum staff to find the ideal lighting plan. The work will include changing upwards of 400 fixtures in public spaces, storage rooms, and museum offices.

The goal of this project study is to identify the energy efficiency savings of the advance technology of LED lighting. The findings will be shared with Co-Op members and used during educational programs in schools and in the community, and the energy savings at the Forest Heritage Center will continue long after the study is complete. The lighting upgrade by Choctaw Electric and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, as well as the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department's facelift to the museum's entrance, are both set to begin within the month.

Forestry Youth Camp

Careers were the focus of the tour of the Forest Heritage Center as part of this year's Forestry Youth Camp. Students heard from foresters in small groups as part of the Amazing Race, a fun game-style tour of the museum, and then listened as a cross section of forestry professionals answered questions and discussed some of their memorable moments in the field and why they love their jobs. In a particularly memorable moment from the night Rick Harder, a retired Weyerhaeuser Land Management Forester, described his experience of holding a baby bear cub as part of his job.



Recreation time provided the opportunity for youngsters to try their hand at the traditional art of woodturning. FHC partners, the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners, supervised as locally salvaged wood was turned into miniature works of art. By creating their own art, students are exposed to different types of wood which helps them recognize different types of trees. During camp students also learned about soils, tree identification, and fly fishing, and they enjoyed canoeing and a visit to a working Weyerhaeuser logging site. The 2020 Forestry Youth Camp will be held June 1-6 in Beavers Bend State Park. For more information call us at 580-494-6497 or visit www.forestry.ok.gov/forestrycamp.



Tri-County 4-H Camp

Students from McCurtain, Latimer, and LeFlore counties assembled at Beavers Bend State Park in June for their annual Tri-County 4-H camp. A panel of forestry professionals shared their career experience with the youngsters, encouraging them to consider a career for themselves in forestry and raising awareness of the importance of forestry to the people of Oklahoma. Among the panelists was a 2018 recipient of the Fred Dierks Educational Scholarship, Sam Moss, who is currently serving as an intern with Weyerhaeuser.



Camp Discover

Students at this year's Camp Discover: Art of the Forest used their sleuthing skills to find clues about the world around us. Microscopes helped students get an up-close look at skeleton leaves and the tiny critters that live in the soil before students got hands-on with paper making, creating their own yummy ice cream, sewing leaf print pillows, and crafting with forest finds. They had a discovery hike on the Tree Trail, a visit from park rangers, and a lesson with real firefighter detectives. Overall, camp provided kids with a mixture of art and forest fun that could start some of these Tree Detectives on the trail of an exciting career in forestry.



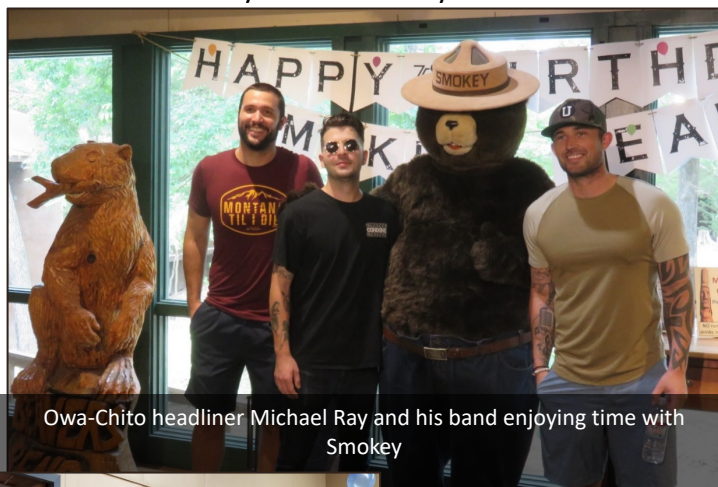
Smokey Bear greets visitors and volunteers and his 75th birthday party

Smokey's story is one that changed the mindset of the American people. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor during World War II. The following spring, Japanese submarines surfaced near the coast of California and fired shells that exploded on an oil field, very close to the Los Padres National Forest. The fear began to spread that, with experienced firefighters and other able-bodied men deployed to fight in the war, there would be no one left to protect the home front from wildfires. The Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention program was organized and Smokey Bear was created. The "Only You" campaign placed the responsibility of fire prevention squarely on the shoulders of every American.

To learn more about the creation of Smokey and the true story of Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com/en/smokeys-history/about-the-campaign>.

Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday Celebration

Smokey Bear fans enjoyed meeting the bear himself during the Smokey Bear Birthday Party on June 22nd, as part of the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest. Festivities included games, cookie decorating, a top tournament, and watching fun and vintage videos in the Smokey Screening Room, and a Smokey Bear themed Student Art Show. The party was part of the year-long, nationwide celebration for Smokey's 75th birthday.



Owa-Chito headliner Michael Ray and his band enjoying time with Smokey



Young visitors learn about wildfire prevention during Smokey's 75th birthday party



Forest Heritage Center Giving Form

Three ways to help secure the future of the Forest Heritage Center

YES, I want to help sustain our forest heritage through history, education and wood art!

Annual Project

- ☐ Annual gift
☐ One time gift

\$ _____

Membership

- ☐ Forest Friend \$25 & up
☐ Forest Patron \$100 & up
☐ Forest Benefactor \$500 & up

Endowment

- ☐ Annual gift
☐ One time gift

\$ _____



Youth Volunteers Make a Big Impact

The Forest Heritage Center's Youth Volunteer program is filled with energetic young people who want to make a difference in their community. The program began organically, with teens helping out every now and then during events, and gradually worked into a more structured program with training opportunities and fun activities that help to engage other kids.

Recently there have been several opportunities for these young people to shine. Springtime is always filled with tours, and these kids jumped right in to help. They trekked the Tree Trail, worked with little ones doing crafts, and assisted with tours of the museum. They helped us kick off the 46th annual Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest by



serving during the annual Forestry Luncheon. These young volunteers assisted museum staff in setting up for the Smokey Bear Birthday Party and then spent the Saturday of the party leading games, giving out stickers, filling balloons, spinning tops, and teaching about wildfire prevention. While having fun, these young people helped other kids feel more comfortable in our museum and helped them to be more open to learning.

The team finished the summer with giggles and laughter during a work day to make tops for FHC partners, the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners. They put together 1900 tops which will be distributed by the woodturners during events and educational programs.

The group is always eager to welcome more young volunteers. A variety of opportunities are available, from hands-on outdoor projects to organization and arts and crafts. To learn more about volunteering, give us a call at 580-494-6497 or email fhc@beaversbend.com.



Total Gift Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

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Phone: (____) _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail To:

Forest Heritage Center

P.O. Box 157

Broken Bow, OK 74728

(580) 494-6497

FHC@beaversbend.com

For tax purposes your gift is deductible to the full extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Code

Thank you for being a part of the Forest Heritage Center family!



Ron Engel-Wilson presents Darryl Pierce with the Friend of the Forest award



Dennis Wilson named Heritage Forester, presented by Randy Holeman and Bob Heinemann



Mikala Courverler named Youth Volunteer of the Year, presented by Calista Stephens

Volunteers Honored at the Owa-Chito Forestry Luncheon

A cross-section of forestry professionals and community leaders assembled to recognize volunteers who have made an impact on the Forest Heritage Center, Beavers Bend State Park, and the surrounding community during the Owa-Chito Forestry Luncheon, the official start of the 47th annual Kiamichi Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest.

Dennis Wilson of Idabel, OK was named this year's Heritage Forester, an individual who exemplifies the forestry community's professionalism, service and innovation and is a role model for other members of the profession. Wilson has been a resident of Southeast Oklahoma since 1977 when he relocated to the area to manage a commercial fish production facility. Since that time he has served as the director of the Little River Conservation Commission and finished his career in August of 2019 as a Research Specialist at the OSU Kiamichi Forestry Research Station. Throughout his career, Wilson has been a strong advocate of sound scientific research and educational outreach.

Darryl Pierce was named the 2019 Friend of the Forest after giving of his time and talents to help the Forest Heritage Center move into a new era. Pierce's vision for updating the firefighter memorial in the courtyard is inspiring further work to enhance the interpretation all around the museum. His tree work helps the museum to maintain a safe and healthy forest inside the courtyard and on the educational Tree Trail, and his donations of salvaged woods enhance museum's mission of forestry education through wood art.

Mikala Courverler, a member of the Forest Heritage Center's Youth Volunteer Team, was recognized as the Youth Volunteer of the Year. Mikala helps with tours, event preparation, and with education during special events. Mikala's sunny demeanor and willingness to help makes her an asset to the museum's staff, volunteers and programs.

Volunteers are an essential part of the Forest Heritage Center, and the museum's Board of Directors would like to extend a thank-you to all who give of their time and talents to create a welcoming, educational atmosphere.

Brewster, Lukfata Schools Receive Scholarships

The Forest Heritage Center Board of Directors was proud to award scholarships to Cason Brewster of Broken Bow and Lukfata Schools during the Owa-Chito Forestry Luncheon. This was the second year that scholarships were offered for graduating high school seniors, college forestry students, and educators.

Cason Brewster, a Sophomore in Forestry at OSU, received the Fred Dierks Educational Scholarship and plans to return to Southeast Oklahoma to begin his career in forestry.

The Middle School Science Classes at Lukfata School plans to use their New Growth Educational Stipend to study the physical structures of plants. The curriculum will include classroom study from textbooks, planting seeds of Oklahoma trees in root-view boxes, and transplanting of the trees to create a Tree Trail of Native Oklahoma's Trees on the school campus.



Cason Brewster receives the Fred Dierks Educational Scholarship



Cheryl Smith receives New Growth Stipend for Lukfata School

Forest Heritage Center Partner Spotlight

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Forest Heritage Center is proud to be a partner with the Oklahoma Forestry Association in spreading the word about healthy Oklahoma forests. The OFA fosters and encourages the use of high ethical standards within the forest industry and promotes sound economic and environmental management. The organization encourages the wise, sustained use of all forest related resources for current and future generations.

The OFA is a non-profit organization made up of more than 200 individuals, landowners and corporations who are concerned with forest policy issues. These conservation-minded citizens pay attention to legislation that affects the forest industry or management practices as well as working to develop a public appreciation of the aesthetic, environmental and economic values of Oklahoma forests.



Sharing the wonders of the forest with the youth of Oklahoma is important to the members of the OFA. They provide resources and leadership for educational programs such as Project Learning Tree, Oklahoma Forestry Youth Camp and Camp Discover, and they assist with tours and workshops at the Forest Heritage Center and in the community. The members of the Oklahoma Forestry Association are committed to growing the foresters and conservationists of tomorrow.



On September 19, 2019 the annual Log A Load for Kids golf tournament will be held at the Idabel Country Club. The event will be followed by a banquet at the Museum of the Red River, with awards for exemplary members of the forestry and wildland firefighting communities. All proceeds from the tournament and banquet go to the Oklahoma Children's Miracle Network.

To learn more about the tournament and banquet, the work of the OFA, or to become a member go to Oklahomaforestry.org, find the Oklahoma Forestry Association Facebook page, or email oklahomaforestryassociation@hotmail.com. The registration form for the golf tournament and/or banquet can be found at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/tGGLTAtqciRSqrLL8>.

OKLAHOMA
FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION

Coming Events

Masters At Work to Feature Women Woodturners

This year's Masters at Work Woodturning Competition will be a treat for all with an all female cast of Master Woodturners competing in four competitions. The ladies will show their diversity in turning spindles, lidded containers, bowls, and turner's choice. In addition to the competitions, the exhibit will feature "Containers for Courage". Through this outreach of the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners, an estimated 200 containers will be donated to the young cancer patients who participate in the Beads of Courage program.

The Masters at Work competition will be held at the Forest Heritage Center on Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14 with a gallery opening on Sunday, September 15. The exhibit will run through October 20. To find out more about the Masters at Work visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/masters-at-work-woodturning-competition>.



Janice Levi competes in the 2018 Masters at Work

Tour De Quartz

The Forest Heritage Center Museum is excited to host the Tour de Quartz, an outreach of the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. The six week exhibit will showcase 40 pieces of unique art that was created by student artists during a two week residential school that provides professional training to talented Oklahoma high school students.

The traveling exhibit will be shown at six locations around the state. The location of the Forest Heritage Center was chosen to reach artistically talented students in rural Southeast Oklahoma who may be candidates for the program as well as the 1.4 million guests to Beavers Bend State Park.

This free exhibit will be held December 9, 2019 through January 17, 2020 from 8 am until 5 pm. For more information contact the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497, visit <https://oaiquartz.org/content/tour-de-quartz> or email us at fhc@beaversbend.com.

Forestry Field Days

In a partnership with Oklahoma 4-H, the FHC will host the first annual Forestry Field Days. During the event, students will have the opportunity to make connections that could help them to get started in a career in forestry. They'll meet a diverse array of people who work in the forest industry including wildland firefighters, tree growers, procurement foresters, equipment operators, researchers, and administrative personnel, to name a few.

The overnight event will be on October 25 and 26 at Beavers Bend State Park with trips to a logging site, Huber Engineered Woods, and the OSU Research Station.

To learn more about Forestry Field Days call the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497 or email fhc@beaversbend.com.

Folk Festival & Craft Show

The 26th annual Beavers Bend Folk Festival & Craft Show is set to kick off on Friday, November 8 and will run through Sunday, November 10. This is the 26th year for this popular free festival, which draws in around 16,000 visitors and 70 vendors to Southeast Oklahoma just in time for the beautiful fall colors.

Guests will be transported back to another time when paper and books were crafted by artisans, yarn was hand spun with natural fibers, and friends gathered together to strum on banjos and guitars. Visitors can enjoy one-stop holiday shopping by browsing through rooms filled with hand-crafted wooden toys, arts and crafts, Oklahoma wine, and homemade quilts and aprons before topping off the experience with the a flavor explosion in the food court.

Guests who would like to support the show and experience some special Folk Festival "perks" can become a VIP member. Benefits include VIP discounts, special seating, an after-hours jam session with Father Son and Friends, and more. Email us at fhc@beaversbend.com to become a Folk Festival VIP.

Folk Festival is free to the public. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. To learn more visit www.forestry.ok.gov/folk-festival.



Historic musician
Jake Book

Quarterly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Forest Heritage Center Museum



Gone Digital?

We'll send your newsletter right to your inbox.

Sign up at

<https://mailchi.mp/a74671503d06/fhc>

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.



PO Box 157
Broken Bow, OK 74728

Residents of Old Hochatown Captured on Film

Former residents of Old Hochatown gathered together at the Forest Heritage Center to have some of their memories of the historic site captured on film. The project is being led by the US Army Corps of Engineers and will be used in an exciting new interpretive project and will be shared with the Library of Congress, according to Adam Miller of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The town of Hochatown was situated East of its current location until residents were relocated in 1969 when Broken Bow Lake was created to control flooding. The interior of the town's Post Office is now located in the courtyard of the Forest Heritage Center and is included in the Forest Heritage Center's plans to update the forested space.



Residents of Old Hochatown during their interview with the US Army Corps of Engineers