

Forest



Fourth Quarter 2019
Volume 22, No. 3

Updates Continue at the Forest Heritage Center

The spirit of teamwork continues to grow at the Forest Heritage Center as renovations continue, with a list of projects that includes the remodel of the FHC's entrance, a new staff kitchen, the courtyard update, new lighting throughout the museum, and an entrance to the Tree Trail. Much of the work was completed in time to welcome guests to Folk Festival, with more to come in 2020.



Beavers Bend State Park staff are ready to welcome guests in the newly refurbished front office

Deck construction, stainless steel cable railing system, stamped concrete walking path, and repairs to existing fascia and the main ramp have been completed in the courtyard. The fire tower cab replica and structure for the cedar shake mill which was used during construction of Dierks housing are slated to be added later this month with interpretive elements, signage and labels, and commemorative pavers to follow in 2020.

Folk Festival guests were greeted with fresh new front doors, flooring in the hallway, reservation desk, and restrooms. The new reservation desk features a dedicated computer for each desk clerk, a handicap accessible station, a welcoming atmosphere with a more open floor plan and quiet

air conditioning system, and staff members are excited to be able to serve customers better with the addition of a new phone line. The renovation by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is nearing completion, with only the Assistant Park Manager office remodel and punch items remaining.

The Tree Trail received an update when Beavers Bend State Park maintenance installed a new entrance featuring a sign and split rail fence which not only beautify the space, but help to protect the environment by directing foot traffic to the established path. The one-mile trail is a favorite for visitors and provides the perfect venue for forestry education during tours and Camp Discover.

To see more updates and photos as work progresses, follow the Forest Heritage Center on Facebook.



Beavers Bend State Park Maintenance staff installing the new Tree Trail sign and fence

Students Gain Real-World Experience at the Forest Heritage Center

Students from the Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabel have taken their classroom to the Forest Heritage Center and are working to replace old light fixtures with energy efficient LED lighting. The Industrial Technology program teaches students about motor controls, safety, electricity, mechanics, and construction and is available to high school juniors and seniors as well as adults. The program equips students with not only real-world knowledge and skills, but provides certifications that are recognized throughout the construction industry.

The new fixtures will provide more even lighting throughout the museum with color temperatures that complement the artwork and exhibits. The improvements will help visitors to focus on the message and to have more meaningful experiences at the Forest Heritage Center. The replacement of fixtures began before Folk Festival in November and is expected to be complete early in 2020.

Toby Pratt of Broken Bow is using his time in the Industrial Technician program to explore career options. After graduating from KTC, Toby plans to attend OSU IT for more training in the fields of Commercial Electric and High Voltage Electricity.



KTC student Nicholas Jimenez's goal is to earn his electrical license and work locally in residential construction. As an adult student, Nicholas had no experience with tools until beginning the Industrial Technician program at KTC but knew that he liked to fix things. Through this program he is learning about the different jobs and settings in construction and earning certifications that will help to jump start his career. By working at the Forest Heritage Center, Nicholas is learning to be cautious about his surroundings. "As an intern at Tyson, I've learned to keep myself safe. Working at the Forest Heritage Center has made me think about the things that surround what I'm working on. I don't want to damage the paint or any of the art in the museum. I'll remember this when I'm working in homes or businesses after I graduate from this program in March."



Each step of replacing fixtures is done by students, from unboxing to assembling fixtures and installation. Students learn about OSHA regulations and how to practice good safety protocols. They receive training for work in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

Youth Volunteers

Tour Huber Engineered Woods

The Forest Heritage Center's Youth Volunteers got a first-hand look at the forest industry in Southeast Oklahoma with a tour of Huber Engineered Woods' flagship plant in Broken Bow. The facility manufactures 300 products and is the second largest forestry-related plant in Oklahoma. Over 160 individuals are employed at this site and many more are directly impacted by the plant's presence in the region including tree growers, equipment operators and drivers.



Pictured are Savannah Stephens, Calista Stephens, John Bennett, Garrett Tipton, Ed Hurliman, Drake Harper, Tim Harper, Anna Bennett, Hunter Rhodes, Ron Bennett, Riley Gamble, and Jennifer Gamble

Students Learn About Careers During Forestry Field Days

In a partnership with Oklahoma 4-H and Oklahoma Forestry Services, the Forest Heritage Center hosted the first annual Forestry Field Days on October 25 and 26. Seven students had the opportunity to go out into the field to meet forestry professionals and see firsthand some of the career opportunities that forestry holds. During the two days, students visited with men and women of the US Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, Oklahoma Forestry Services, Huber Engineered Woods, Hancock Forestry, Hurliman Forestry and the Kiamichi Research Station.



Students learn to graft trees during Forestry Field Days



Silviculture, Wildland Firefighter, Wildlife Biologist, Archaeology, Environmental Planner, and GIS Technician careers were highlighted during a trip to the US Forest Service office



Students get an up-close look at heavy machinery at a Weyerhaeuser logging site

Fire Tower History Captured on Film

The first-hand account of Ladonna Barber was caught on film as part of ongoing research for updates in the courtyard. Ladonna is the last fire lookout to work for Oklahoma Forestry Services. Fire watch towers were spread throughout Southeast Oklahoma, and during fire season Ladonna and her fellow lookouts would climb into the cabs of the towers to watch for smoke. The location of the smoke was pinpointed and cross-referenced with another lookout, then rangers would be notified of the fire.

When visitors step into the fire tower cab replica they'll be able to see and touch the very same tools that Ladonna and other fire lookouts used to protect the people and forests of Oklahoma. The cab is set to be installed in the courtyard later this month.



Ladonna Barber talks about her time as an OFS fire tower lookout

VIP Sponsors

Thank you to each of our Folk Festival VIP Sponsors, whose commitment to helping the community allows us keep the festival free to the public and going strong!

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Charles Wesley Motor Lodge
Orr Family Dentistry
Wild Goose Canoe
Billie Tomlinson

26th Annual Beavers Bend Folk Festival & Craft Show

The clear, crisp weather and delightful fall foliage provided the perfect atmosphere for the 26th annual Folk Festival & Craft Show. The artistry of vendors and entertainers drew guests from all over the country who enjoyed many of their favorites as well as some fresh faces. Characters of the past were brought to life by living history reenactors who demonstrated barrel making, carving, wood turning, weaving, spinning, soap making and more.



Folk Festival guests were treated to living history demonstrations

Folk Festival visitors were the first to enjoy many of the updates to the Forest Heritage Center, from the beautiful outdoor views of the new Tree Trail sign and flowers on the deck, to the new entrance and restrooms. Guests in the courtyard were especially excited over the improved access to the space with many taking advantage of the concrete path with strollers, scooters and wheelchairs.

Behind the scenes, the event went smoothly with FHC staff, Department of Tourism personnel, Oklahoma Forestry Services and volunteers working seamlessly together. "This festival is partnership at its finest. Everyone pitches in and helps where they're needed. We're all working toward the goal of providing an excellent experience for our guests," says festival coordinator Doug Zook.

A special thank you goes to those who give the gift of time to Folk Festival. Volunteers help with vendor loading and unloading, taking care of vendor needs, adding special touches, and sometimes they're the ones who make sure the staff takes a moment to take care of themselves. They provide that "special something" that is the heart of our Folk Festival family.



Oklahoma Forestry Services and Beavers Bend State Park staff welcomed visitors to Folk Festival

Folk Festival Partnerships

Partnerships are an important part of the success of Folk Festival! Thank you to Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Ft. Towson Historic Site, Oklahoma Forestry Services, Oklahoma Home & Community Educators, Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners, Broken Bow School Carpentry Students, Broken Bow Jr. Chamber, and our youth and adult volunteers for making this show one of Oklahoma's most popular Autumn events!

Forest Heritage Center Partner Spotlight

OKLAHOMA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Oklahoma Forestry Association has been on a role! In September, we held one of our most successful Log a Load for Kids charity golf tournament and banquet events. This year, thanks to our fantastic participants and donors we were able to send a net proceeds check to Oklahoma Children's Miracle Network Hospital in the amount of \$12,000! During our banquet, we awarded Clifford Eppler with our *Wildland Firefighter of the Year* award for his service and dedication to Oklahoma Forestry Services. Also, Butch Harrison, dba Harrison Logging, received our award for *Logger of the Year*, for his longtime dedication to managing a grade-A logging team.

The OFA continued their momentum in September and held a heavily attended BMP and Logger Training workshop at the Kiamichi Tech facility in Idabel. Moving into October, we held our fall landowner workshop and lunch social at the Antlers Community Center, with about 35 in attendance. The program included an overview of two national landowner organizations, Forest Landowners Association and National Woodland Owners Association. Presentations outlining how to lease your land, and how to best manage your land in a changing climate, were also given.

If you didn't make the workshop this time don't worry, our workshops are held in the spring and fall and focus on current woodland management issues for the private landowner. The workshop and luncheon cost only \$12/ person, and CFE credits are available! If you have any woodland topics you would like to suggest for our upcoming spring workshop, please send your ideas to oklahomaforestryassociation@hotmail.com.

Thank you! Happy Holidays!



Pete Herron
OFA Vice President



OKLAHOMA
FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION

Forest Heritage Center Giving Form

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

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

Annual Project

- Annual gift
- One time gift

\$ _____

Membership

- Forest Friend \$25 & up
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2020

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Forest Heritage Center Museum

2020 Events

Beginning Woodturning at Broken Bow School

February 10-28

Public Classes February 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, & 27

Women Woodturning Classes TBD

Master Woodworking Artist of the Year

Reception March 8,

Gallery open through May 10

Owa-Chito

Forestry Luncheon April 23

Student Art Show April 24 & 25

Forestry Youth Camp

Ages 13-15, May 31-June 5

Camp Discover

Ages 9-11, July 7-9

Masters at Work

September 11-13

Gallery open until Oct. 18

Folk Festival

November 13-15



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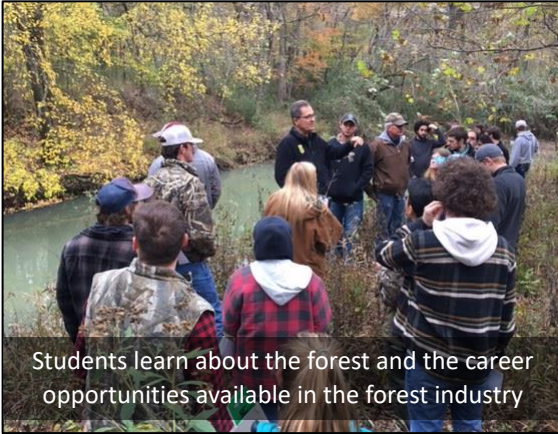
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For tax purposes your gift is deductible to the full extent allowed by the Internal Revenue Code

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

Coming Events



Students learn about the forest and the career opportunities available in the forest industry

Forestry Scholarships to be Offered

In an effort to reach out to the young men and women who are the future of forestry, the Forest Heritage Center Board of Directors will offer scholarships to college students and graduating high school seniors, as well as stipends for educators who wish to include forestry education as part of their program.

Applications should be received by March 10, 2020. Awards will be presented at the annual Owa-Chito Forestry Luncheon on April 23. To learn more call the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497, e-mail fhc@beaversbend.com, or download an application at <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/fhc-scholarships>.

Master Woodworking Artist of the Year

The imaginations of some of the nation's top wood artists are running wild as they prepare for the 2020 Master Woodworking Artist of the Year exhibit, which will happen at the Forest Heritage Center Museum in the heart of Beavers Bend State Park. All are invited to attend the opening reception where Oklahoma's 2020 Master Woodworking Artist of the Year will be named, at 1:30 on March 1st. The hand-crafted pieces will remain on display in the Sycamore gallery through May 3rd.

Applications for this juried show can be found at <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/artist-of-the-year-application>.



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 between August of 2019 and June of 2020.

This free exhibit will be at the Forest Heritage Center from December 9, 2019 until January 17, 2020 from 8 am till 5 pm. For more about the Tour de Quartz exhibit visit <https://oaiquartz.org/content/tour-de-quartz>



Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept staff help with finishing touches for the gallery

Beginning Woodturning Classes

Woodturners will gather at the Broken Bow High School carpentry shop to pass on their love of wood art to the community during **Beginning Woodturning: A Foundation Course**. This free class series is suitable for beginning to advanced woodturners of all ages and will be held at the Broken Bow High School carpentry shop on February 18, 20, 25 & 27 and March 3 & 5 from 6:30 until 8:30 pm. No registration, tools or prior woodturning knowledge are necessary to attend.

For more information contact the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497, visit our website at www.forestry.ok.gov/beginning-woodturning or contact Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners President Ron Engel-Wilson at 580-286-6592.



Students gain hands-on experience during Beginning Woodturning classes

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.

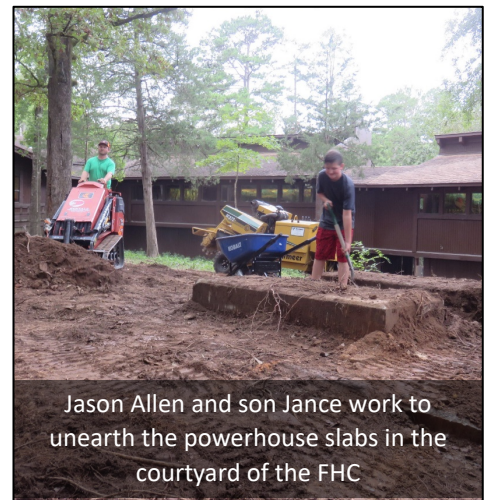


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CCC Powerhouse Foundation Discovered at the Forest Heritage Center

For as long as anyone can remember there has been a mound in the courtyard of the Forest Heritage Center. It wasn't until the mound needed to be removed that the Board of Directors questioned what was contained within. Was it an important historical artifact or simply a pile of dirt? As plans were made to update the courtyard, the question became more pressing until John Davis of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called in to investigate.

John discovered a WPA map that was drawn in 1939 which helped him identify the mound as the site of the powerhouse during the construction of Beavers Bend State Park by the Civilian Conservation Corps. As earth was removed and concrete became visible, it was evident that these slabs which once held the generator should be preserved and a plan was made to use the artifacts to tell the story of the construction of the park.



Jason Allen and son Jance work to unearth the powerhouse slabs in the courtyard of the FHC