

# Forest



First Quarter 2021  
Volume 23, No. 4

## Big Changes Planned for Forest Heritage Center Gift Shop

The gift shop at the Forest Heritage Center began in 1979 as a volunteer-run, small shop in what is now one of the museum's administrative offices. In 1986 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jones began operating the shop on a seasonal basis. By the time Bob and Pat Gilliam took over the operation in 1989, the gift shop was in its current location in the front of the Forest Heritage Center. In 2009, Vicki Taylor became the gift shop operator, and she worked hard for eleven years keeping the shelves stocked and welcoming guests before announcing her retirement, effective December 31, 2020. "Vicki has been a vital partner. She has always gone the extra mile to support our programs and events and has been happy to lend a helping hand. We'll miss her encouragement and her smiling face at the Forest Heritage Center," says Doug Zook, FHC Program Director.

Following Taylor's retirement announcement, the Forest Heritage Center Board of Directors and the Department of Tourism began discussions for a complete re-vamping of the gift shop. The state agency and non-profit organization worked together to come up with a plan for a complete remodel including an approximately 520 square foot expansion of the space, with added storage and a fresh look. The rustic ambiance of the shop is being designed to extend the historical forestry theme of the museum. The new design will encourage a better flow with a second entrance inside the Forest Heritage Center. "We're happy to be a part of this project," says Michael Green of Green Construction. "Every time we work at the Forest Heritage Center our team feels like we're making a lasting contribution to the enjoyment of all who come here. Families, friends, school kids, and honeymooners: it's here for us all to enjoy."

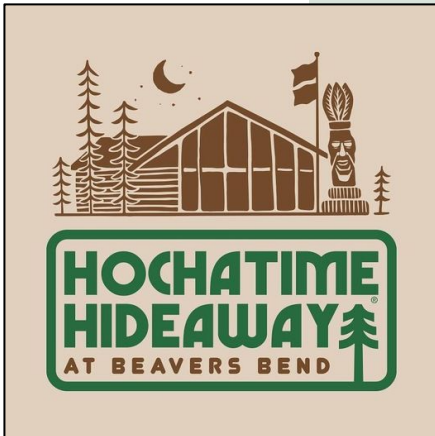
While no date has been set for the opening of the gift shop, contractors are hopeful that the project will be finished by the end of the school year, just in time for the busy summer season.



Doug Zook, Kim Kennedy, and Michael Green make plans for the remodel and expansion of the Forest Heritage Center gift shop.



# Forest Heritage Center Welcomes Hochatime Hideaway



The Forest Heritage Center is proud to announce our new gift shop, Hochatime Hideaway, a branch of the original Hochatime. The Hochatown-based company is well known for its “Living on Hochatime” vibe and fresh vintage look. The brand began with research into the history, people, and places that make the Hochatown area special. “Before Hochatime opened, Kim and Jess reached out to me for some photos. I sent some and have been so pleased to see our county represented well by the Hochatime brand. They have worked hard to find the heart of our area” says Kenny Sivard, president of the McCurtain County Historical Society.

Hochatime founders Kim Kennedy and Jessica Alkirwri are working hard to develop products that remain true to the brand while representing Beavers Bend and the Forest Heritage Center. The shop will feature a “heavy dose of Beavers Bend State Park” along with Hochatime Hideaway products and the ever-popular Hochatime brand. Clothing and gear will be available in several different price points to accommodate the wants and needs of guests. “We want to take some time to get to know what visitors want. We’ll have outdoor gear, pens, magnets, stickers, and clothing. We’ll be listening to guests and coming up with new products to accommodate them,” says Kim Kennedy.



The new gift shop will be an extension of the museum. The message of sustainable forestry will spill out of the doors of the museum and into the rustic, retro new gift shop space. The power of the Hochatime brand will bring awareness to tree products, sustainable forestry, and good conservation practices. “We’re especially excited about the new venue for Tree Bear,” says FHC staffer Calista Stephens. “His reminders about all of the good things that come from trees is directed toward the conservationists of tomorrow. We have to make sure our children understand that we depend on tree products and that sustainable, responsible forestry practices are necessary and good. The Hochatime brand will make that message cool!”



## Future Agriculture Leaders Tour Forest Heritage Center

Thirteen students from the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter program, along with Oklahoma State University Professor of Animal Science, Dr. Jerry Fitch, and Brent Bolen of the Oklahoma Ag Commission, visited the Forest Heritage Center on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Garrett Tipton of Huber Engineered Woods, one of the state's leading manufacturers of wood products, led the tour which focused on the \$5.8 billion economic impact of forestry to the economy of Oklahoma, as well as the positive effect of proper forest management on the environment. After the tour of the FHC, the group went into the field to see an example of commercial land management versus management for the enjoyment of the public. The group saw firsthand some of the types of forest that our native wildlife enjoy and learned about the "edge effect" that is beneficial to wildlife.



## First Day Hike

Rain boots were the preferred footwear for the First Day Hike at Beavers Bend State Park. Despite the wet conditions, 105 people met at the Forest Heritage Center on January 1<sup>st</sup> to start the New Year with a hike, led by Beavers Bend State Park's naturalist, Frank Griffith. After the hike the group enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends of Beavers Bend State Park.

First Day hikes are an annual event in state parks across Oklahoma. The Nature Center in Beavers Bend keeps an active schedule for visitors with Saturday eagle tours in January and February, Segway tours, kayak tours beginning in June, an annual Easter egg hunt, and crafts on Saturdays.

To learn more about Beavers Bend State Park, go to <https://tinyurl.com/47myax2w> or call 580-494-6300.



# Beginning Woodturning Classes

The Beginning Woodturning classes are off to a great start at the Broken Bow High School carpentry shop. The classes teach the fundamentals of woodturning and connect students with woodturning mentors who can help them learn more about the art form. Each student begins with an orientation class to become familiar with terminology, parts of the lathe, and woodturning safety, and then works under the supervision of an experienced turner to learn tool control. By the end of the two week period, students should have learned skills that help them plan, communicate, and complete designs of their own.



## A Legacy Continues as Classes Expand to Wright City School

Following the two weeks of Beginning Woodturning classes at Broken Bow school, instructors from the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners will move lathes to the Wright City school's carpentry shop for two weeks. The expansion of the program was made possible by the donation of tools which belonged to the late Butch Lindsey of Tuttle, OK. Butch was a longtime supporter and instructor for the Beginning Woodturning classes. The Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners assisted with the acquisition of two lathes to the school shop so the students will have the tools they need to continue with the art of woodturning after the classes have been completed.

## Class Focus is Art Standards

The Beginning Woodturning classes focus on woodturning as an art form using the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Art. During the classes, students learn about shape, color, texture, style, and form as well as how to take care of equipment and communicate about art. Students will take collaboration and using multiple mediums to a new level this year by doing a collaborative project with traditional art students. This activity will introduce woodturning students to embellishment techniques for wood art and help art students appreciate woodturning as an art form.

This program is made possible by a partnership of the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners, Oklahoma Arts Council, and the Forest Heritage Center.



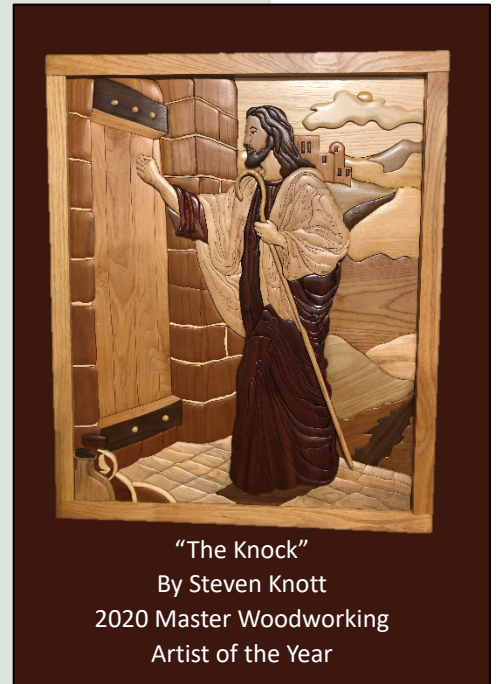


# Master Woodworking Artist of the Year Competition and Exhibit

The Master Woodworking Artist of the Year Exhibit is set to open on Sunday, March 7 at the Forest Heritage Center. Artists from across the nation compete for the prestigious title “Master Woodworking Artist of the Year,” using innovative techniques and wood in a variety of colors and grain patterns.

With every show, a theme organically emerges as artists drop off their pieces. “This year artists showed us what inspires them. They have had this unusual year to reflect on the things that are important to them and it showed in the work” says FHC staffer Calista Stephens. “Guests will come away with a better understand of what keeps these artists going: community, friendships, American pride, and simple appreciation for what’s hidden inside the bark of a tree.

The winners will be announced in a virtual presentation on March 7<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit is free to the public and will remain open until May 9<sup>th</sup>. Exhibit hours are 10 am – 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday and 1 pm – 4 pm on Sunday. The Master Woodworking Artist of the Year Competition and Exhibit is made possible by the Oklahoma Arts Council, Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners, Oklahoma Department of Tourism, and the Forest Heritage Center.



“The Knock”  
By Steven Knott  
2020 Master Woodworking  
Artist of the Year

## Wood Art Capital of Oklahoma

The Forest Heritage Center became the Wood Art Capital of Oklahoma on February 16, 2010 with the passage of a concurrent resolution authored by State Senator Jerry Ellis and State Representative Dennis Bailey. The approved resolution authorized the Forest Heritage Center to convey the title of “Master Woodworking Artist of the Year” to a commendable artist in their field. According to former FHC board member Ron Deramus, the “acceptance of woodturning as an art form has significantly raised the stature of wood art in Oklahoma.”



## 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
- Forest Patron \$100 & up
- Forest Benefactor \$500 & up

### Endowment

- Annual gift
- One time gift

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Educational Program Update

Educating the next generation about sustainable forestry and conservation, and possibly inspiring a few young people to find careers in forestry, is a priority at the Forest Heritage Center. We are working hard to find ways to safely continue our programs and get back to conducting personal tours of the FHC and Tree Trail.

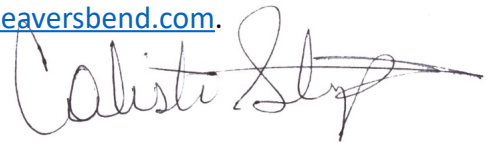
Things are looking positive for Camp Discover. If we're not completely through the COVID situation before time for camp, we have plans B and C which would allow us to have a minimum number of participants at the Forest Heritage Center at any given time. Camp Discover is scheduled for July 6-8 which gives us a little time to watch the situation. Applications will not be circulated until April or May but we are keeping a list of those who are interested in Camp Discover.

Forestry Youth Camp will not be happening this year due to COVID restrictions. This camp for young people ages 13-15 would normally happen in June.

The plan is to move forward with the second annual Forestry Field Days. This program gets young people out in the field with foresters and introduces them to industry professionals so they can start to see where they might "fit" in forestry.

In other education news, the Assistant Park Manager, Zakk Burdg, and I have been working together to increase the outdoor education programming in Beavers Bend State Park. We have some long-term goals in mind, but right now we're taking small steps to add to existing programs. In March we're planning an outdoor education event including a night hike with the Broken Bow Scout troop. On April 28 we'll be hosting a Quail Forever pollinator event with students from Howe Schools.

We are working hard to keep our educational programs alive and vibrant. Please give us a call for more information about upcoming programs at 580-494-6497 or email [fhc@beaversbend.com](mailto:fhc@beaversbend.com).



Calista Stephens

FHC Education and Outreach

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching

March 9th is the deadline to apply for a Forest Heritage Center scholarship. Scholarships are available for graduating high school students and college forestry students and a stipend is available for formal or informal educators who wish to include forestry as part of their program. Award recipients will be notified the week of April 22. To find out more go to <https://tinyurl.com/yy6g4zqt> or call the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497.



Total Gift Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Mail To:

*Forest Heritage Center*  
*P.O. Box 157*  
*Broken Bow, OK 74728*  
*(580) 494-6497*  
[FHC@beaversbend.com](mailto: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!**



## Museums and Trails Provide an Informal Learning Environment

In 1992 the American Alliance of Museums released a report called *Excellence and Equity* which focused on the role of museums in education and suggested that museums are capable of offering different learning environments, which cater to diverse ages and formalities (1).



At the Forest Heritage Center, we enjoy working with teachers to design programs that bring lessons from the classroom to the museum, and back again. Summer school themes, class projects, and educational topics can all be interpreted in the museum setting, and programs can easily move to the outdoor spaces of the courtyard and Tree Trail. The educational Tree Trail is a 1.1 mile loop with easy to moderate terrain. A portion of the trail parallels Beaver Creek which makes it the perfect spot for kids to get their feet wet on a hot summer day and learn about how their actions can affect the water and the creatures living in it.

Left: Students from Howe school meet Smokey Bear.

Park personnel, foresters, firefighters, wood artists, and conservation educators are among those who help with programs at the Forest Heritage Center.

Right: Candice Miller of Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Blue Thumb teaching about aquatic macroinvertebrates.



"We build upon what the kids are being taught. We might take a summer school camping theme and use that to create a program that teaches camping safety, wildlife conservation, and park history. A lot of our tours use the outdoor spaces and the Tree Trail. With the creativeness of educators and the resources we have for presenters, the possibilities are endless" says FHC staffer Calista Stephens.

Left: Park Ranger Gary Hawkins teaches kids about camping safety and etiquette.

(1) Kennedy, J. 2019. "Where formal and informal education meet: Making a museum school." *Museum Hack*. May 10. Accessed February 22, 2021.




# Forest Heritage Center Museum

## Oklahoma's Only Forestry Museum

Located Inside Beautiful Beavers Bend State Park

[fhc@beaversbend.com](mailto:fhc@beaversbend.com)

 @forestheritagecenter

580-494-6497



PO Box 157  
Broken Bow, OK 74728

### **Aiahli aiahni**

#### **“Hoping for Justice”**

The Whispering Giant sculpture named Aiahli aiahni, was carved in 1979 by Hungarian artist Peter Toth. It took Toth 2 ½ months to complete this sculpture using a hammer and chisel. He did the work free of charge and asked for room and board in exchange for his work. The sculpture was made from a 450 year old Bald Cypress tree that grew in the northern part of McCurtain county. In 2010, Toth returned to the Forest Heritage Center to refine the sculpture to reflect the 30 years that have passed since it was first created.

To date, Toth has hand-chiseled more than 74 sculptures across the United States, Canada, and Europe as part of the “Trail of Whispering Giants” to honor Native Americans. He currently has a small gallery/studio in Edgewater, FL, where he carves small wooden statues to raise money to create more Whispering Giants.

