

# Forest



Fourth Quarter 2021  
Volume 24, No. 3

## FHC Welcomes New Team Member



Welcome to the team! Brianna Teel joined the Forest Heritage Center team on October 11th as the full-time Oklahoma Forestry Services Administrative Assistant. Brianna's background in living history and education, as well as her passion for museums, will help us reach more people to share the story of sustainable forestry! Congratulations Brianna!



## Wood Artist Demonstrations During Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest

During the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest held on September 24 and 25, wood artists demonstrated carving, turning, toy making, and chainsaw art. Among the slate of presenters were local chainsaw artists Stevie and Sandy Songer, who transformed logs into works of art to the delight of guests, Richard Duval, who demonstrated the precise control required for chip carving, and Delbert Dowdy, who shared some of the finer points of segmented woodturning. In addition, students from Broken Bow School used skills learned during their Beginning Woodturning classes to demonstrate pen making.



Wood Artist Richard Duval demonstrates chip carving

## Forestry Awards Announced at the Annual Forestry Luncheon



Heritage Forester Don Herron and family

Every year the Forest Heritage Center Board of Directors recognizes a forester who exemplifies professionalism, service to the community, ethical integrity, and who has helped with the development of the industry through participation with professional organizations, innovation, and serving as a role model for other members of the profession. This year's recipient was Don Herron of Idabel, OK. During his 40+ year career in sustainable tree farming Don converted the entire Herron forest from natural regeneration to improved plantations. Don is involved behind the scenes with many local community projects.

The Friend of the Forest award recognizes individuals who make a positive difference in the forestry community. Recipients Terry and Michelle Finch-Walker “go above and beyond in their official and private citizen capacities to consistently promote the best interests of forestry in this area” says FHC board member Pete Herron. He continues, “They excel in bringing new ideas to the FHC board of directors, Beavers Bend State Park, and the general tourist area while being mindful of the impact on forestry.”



FHC Board Chairman Brian McClain with Friend of the Forest Michelle Finch-Walker

## Wood Artists Invest in Youth During Beginning Woodturning Classes



Woodturning student Roland Wages enjoys hands-on time at the lathe.

Broken Bow School woodshop students learned basic woodturning skills and safety with the guidance of experienced turners during the Beginning Woodturning classes in October. Lessons began with an introduction to the lathe, terminology, and safety before students stepped up to the lathe for hands-on instruction. According to Earl Braddy, the goal for himself and fellow instructors Rod Miller and Chris Wood was to build trust, open lines of communication, and develop self confidence in students. “More than beautiful wood art is crafted during this class. As students and mentors work together to accomplish goals, barriers are removed and relationships are built,” says Forest Heritage Center Director Calista Stephens. The instructors will move to the Lumberjax Woodshop at Wright City School in January for the next session of classes.



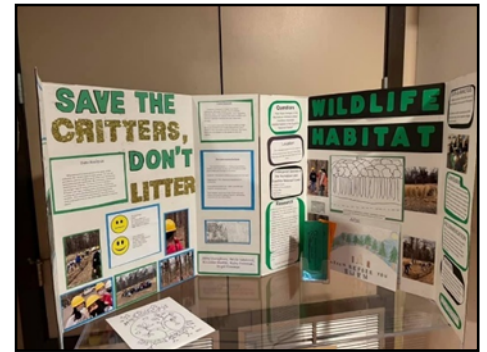
## Young Agriculture Leaders Learn About Oklahoma's Forest Industry

Young leaders from the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter program visited the Forest Heritage Center on Friday, November 19 to learn about forestry as part of Oklahoma's agricultural industry. Along with Oklahoma Ag Board member Brent Bolen and Oklahoma State University Animal Science professor Jerry Fitch, the students heard about the sustainability of forestry, trees as an agricultural crop, and forestry's estimated economic impact of \$5.1 billion to Oklahoma's economy. They concluded their visit with a catered luncheon.

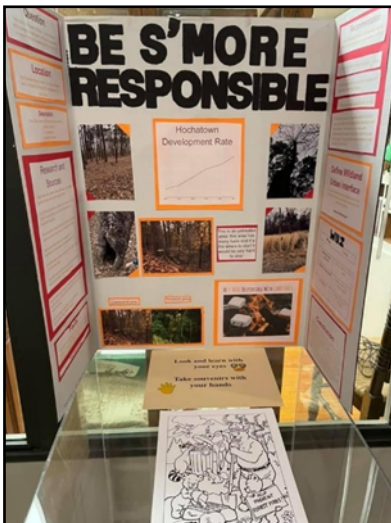


## Young Perspectives On Forestry Are Shared With Special Exhibit

A few years ago, Broken Bow High School students were asked to research topics related to forestry. Their group presentations ranged from wildfire awareness to recycling, with each student contributing both artistically and academically. They created catchy slogans and mascots, as well as graphs and topography. From the displays, one can tell that these students truly cared about what they were researching. Their photos show smiling faces and a willingness to learn.



Wisdom is often associated with age, assuming that, in order to learn we must look towards our elders. However, it is clear from these presentations that young minds are some of the greatest sources of knowledge. They see things from a different perspective, expressing the arts, science, history, etc., in a way we could all strive to understand.



## Agencies Participate in Cross-Training at FHC

A cross training event was held on Monday, November 8, with Brianna Teel and Calista Stephens from the Forest Heritage Center, Tama Lester from the Broken Bow Oklahoma Forestry Services office, Patti Turpin and Kelly Donaldson from US Forest Service, Beavers Bend State Park Assistant Manager Haley Harris, and the park's reception desk staff. The purpose of the event was to facilitate a better understanding of the roles that the US Forest Service and Oklahoma Forestry Services play for residents and tourists, as well as to provide a basic understanding of the forest industry.

Forest Heritage Center staff members Calista Stephens and Brianna Teel followed up with a tour of US Forest Service lands in Southeast Oklahoma led by Alex Schwartz to learn more about the role of the agency in our state's diverse forest industry.



## Oklahoma Forest History Event Scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>



**The Forest Heritage Center is proud to host a history day for local high school students. RSVP ONLY. The event will include a guided tour and interactive demonstrations by educators and foresters.**

**Date: December 14, 2021  
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Contact: (580)-494-6497  
[fhc@ag.ok.gov](mailto:fhc@ag.ok.gov)**



The Forest Heritage Center is hosting an event geared specifically towards local high school students. The day will highlight the connection of the Choctaw people with the forest, life during early statehood, the development of Oklahoma's forest industry, the establishment of Oklahoma Forestry Services, and exciting careers for young people in forestry.



## FHC Hosts Christmas Event

The FHC is hosting a Christmas event on December 18<sup>th</sup> that will include a presentation, snacks, and crafts. Brianna Teel will be exploring the history behind popular holiday traditions and providing visitors with unique souvenirs!

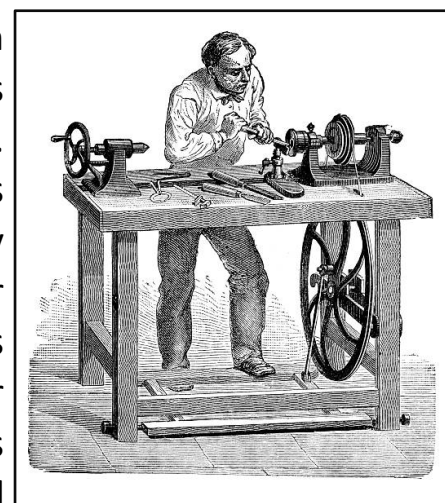
The event is free to the public and will take place in the courtyard of the FHC from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Guests are invited to participate in hands-on activities and are welcome to tour the museum while their projects dry.

- ❖ *The crafts have been graciously donated by the Southeast Oklahoma Woodturners.*



## Registration Open for Beginning Woodturning Classes

Beginning Woodturning classes for the public will be held in March at Broken Bow School. All are welcome but class size is limited, and participants must register to be guaranteed a lathe. Students may sign up for all six classes or select which classes they would like to attend. This opportunity is specifically geared for beginner or early intermediate students. Classes for more advanced turners are available on an individual basis throughout the year. To register for the public classes for beginners or to learn more about classes for advanced students call the Forest Heritage Center at **580-494-6497** or email **[fhc@ag.ok.gov](mailto:fhc@ag.ok.gov)**



**Watch our Facebook page for announcements regarding the Hochatime Hideaway gift shop grand opening at the Forest Heritage Center!**





### **Dr. Tom Kuzmic Retires from OSU's Forestry Department**

Tom Kuzmic is retiring this coming January after 42 years of teaching forestry at Oklahoma State University. His dedication and hard work positively influenced the lives of his students and colleagues. Through his passionate, personable, and often novel teaching approach, he improved the sustainable and ethical management of forests not just in Oklahoma, but nationally as his students fanned out across the country. His contributions to teaching have been acknowledged through numerous awards and recognitions from OSU and beyond, including the Carl Alwin Schenck Award which is the highest teaching honor bestowed by the Society of American Foresters.

Tom's contributions to forestry cannot be overstated. Many of the foresters in Oklahoma had Tom for their classes. They had the pleasure of enjoying fellowship with him around campfires during summer camp. In addition to his contributions to forestry education, Tom is a leader within the forestry community. He is a major reason for the continued success of both the Oklahoma Division and Ouachita Society of American Foresters. Tom is always eager to volunteer his time and leads community projects such as "Walk in the Forest," which gets the positive message of forestry out to younger generations.

While Tom will be greatly missed on campus, he plans to stay involved with the forestry community as he and his family continue to raise horses near Perry. If you would like to send Tom a note of congratulations or catch up with him, you can reach him via email at [thomas.kuzmic@okstate.edu](mailto:thomas.kuzmic@okstate.edu).

- Dr. Rod Will

OSU Forestry Professor



# Forest Heritage Center Membership and Giving Form

The success of the Forest Heritage Center is due in large part to the memberships and contributions of those who support our mission of *“sustaining our forest heritage through history, education and wood art.”*

We know you are familiar with memberships and donations, but are you aware of our third option of giving? An endowment with the McCurtain Community Fund, an affiliate of the Tulsa Community Foundation, has been established for the FHC. The FHC endowment fund is designed to generate and ensure a stable financial future for the Museum.

## 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail To:

*Forest Heritage Center  
P.O. Box 157  
Broken Bow, OK 74728  
(580) 494-6497  
[fhc@ag.ok.gov](mailto:fhc@ag.ok.gov)*

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

If you are ready to leave your legacy, donate to the museum or to our endowment in your will or trust, use the giving form in this newsletter or call us at 580-494-6497. Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.




# Forest Heritage Center Museum

## Oklahoma's Only Forestry Museum

Located Inside Beautiful Beavers Bend State Park

[fhc@ag.ok.gov](mailto:fhc@ag.ok.gov)

 @forestheritagecenter

(580)-494-6497



PO Box 157  
Broken Bow, OK 74728

### Did you know?

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was common in Germany to decorate Christmas Trees with apples. The custom had its origins in early 'miracle plays' performed in the churches on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

In 18<sup>th</sup> century Austria and Germany, it was popular to decorate the home with evergreen tips that would be hung upside down from the ceiling then gilded with apples, nuts, and red paper ornamentations.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Christmas Tree was introduced to American households largely due to the illustrations of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's tree in Windsor Castle.