

# Forest Heritage



Sharing the message of sustainable forestry through history, education, and wood art.

Read more in full on our website

## FOREST HERITAGE CENTER WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR



We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Shalee Buzan, as the new Director of the Forest Heritage Center in Hochatown, OKLA. A native of McCurtain County, Shalee brings a deep connection to the community along with a wealth of expertise.

Shalee holds a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Advertising, and Public Relations. Her impressive educational background, coupled with her entrepreneurial spirit as a successful business owner, makes her a perfect fit for leading the Forest Heritage Center into an exciting future.

In her new role, Shalee is eager to drive growth, foster new opportunities, and engage with our community to preserve and promote our rich forest heritage. Her vision and leadership promise to bring innovative developments and increased community involvement to the Center.

Please join us in giving Shalee a warm welcome and supporting her as she embarks on this new journey with us.

Welcome aboard, Shalee!

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY?

Sustainable forestry refers to the practice of managing forests in a way that meets the current needs for forest products while also ensuring the long-term health of the forest ecosystem. Stakeholders aim to achieve a balance between conservation and utilization, ensuring that forests can continue to provide benefits such as timber, clean water, carbon storage, and recreational opportunities indefinitely.



OKLAHOMA FOREST HERITAGE CENTER



OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS



# 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*

*okfhcmuseum@outlook.com*

**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.



## FHC TO HOST WENDELIN PAINTINGS

We are excited to announce that the FHC will be hosting a special exhibition to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday from July 22nd to August 2nd, 2024. The event will be open to the public daily from 9 AM to 4 PM. In honor of this milestone, we will be showcasing 19 original Wendelin Smokey Bear paintings, on loan from the Superior National Forest. These iconic artworks, created by Rudolph (Rudy) Wendelin between 1977 and 1995, depict Smokey Bear in his signature ranger hat and blue jeans, emphasizing his human-like appearance

and timeless message of wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear, the USDA Forest Service's iconic mascot, has been a symbol of wildfire prevention since 1944. This year's campaign theme, "Smokey is Within," celebrates individuals who take responsibility for preventing wildfires. Smokey's message, "Only YOU can prevent wildfires," has resonated with generations, and we are thrilled to contribute to this ongoing legacy.

Join us for this unique opportunity to view these historic paintings and celebrate the legacy of Smokey Bear.

## EDUCATIONAL CORNER

On June 11th, students from Lukfata Elementary visited the FHC and Nature Center. They toured both facilities, engaged in various activities, and took home crafts and coloring sheets. We encourage other schools to schedule visits and take advantage of our tours and educational programs. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and explore in an enriching environment. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact us at +580.494.6497



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FOREST HERITAGE  
CENTER



# MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 'THE GATEWAY' COLLECTION

Oklahoma Historical Society The Gateway to Oklahoma History

Home Tour About Explore

Countries	1
U.S. States	1
Counties	1
Decades	3
Years	4
Months	2
Days	1
Languages	2





Share

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The FHC is proud to announce that our photo collection is now featured on 'The Gateway,' an online repository of Oklahoma history presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Visitors can search, view, and download thousands of historic newspapers, publications, photographs, maps, and documents. The Gateway is a free digital platform dedicated to sharing the rich and diverse history of the state.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MUSEUM DAY



The Choctaw Cultural Center recently hosted Museum Day, an event celebrating our rich cultural heritage and history. Pictured here are FHC Board Representative Brianna Reed and Collections Assistant Leah Green, who played key roles in making the day a success. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our shared heritage.

### BRIANNA AND TREE BEAR GO BACK TO SCHOOL



This summer, FHC Board Representative Brianna Reed and Tree Bear have been actively visiting local school districts, engaging with students in their summer school programs. Their visits are part of an ongoing effort to educate and inspire young minds about the importance of environmental stewardship and the rich cultural heritage of our community. Brianna and Tree Bear have brought smiles to many faces and fostered a deeper appreciation for our natural world.

# FORESTRY CAMP

This 66-year tradition immerses young people in nature, allowing them to learn about sustainable forestry, ecosystem relationships, urban forestry, arboriculture, wildlife, stream ecology, and much more.

This year, 46 children participated, with 70% being new faces. The camp's success is attributed to OFS Education Coordinator and 2024 recipient of the Oklahoma Informal Educator Award, Tony Pascall. Additionally, Beavers Bend State Park staff, the FHC Board of Directors, and members of the OFS played crucial roles in making this event a memorable experience for all.



# CAMP DISCOVER

During Camp Discover, students are challenged to view the ecosystem around them as a bustling metropolis, with each organism playing a vital role in the ever-turning wheel of life.

This year's Camp Discover focused on how the Earth provides us with a multitude of resources. Students embarked on educational hikes, collected specimens from the creek, and engaged with many presenters who shared their environmental, practical, and historical knowledge. These activities not only broadened their understanding of the natural world but also emphasized the interconnectedness of all living things.

## 1ST SATURDAY



The FHC prides itself on offering monthly programs and crafting opportunities for our guests. These events enhance the visitor experience and makes our facility memorable.

For the month of May, the FHC hosted a vendor market day with local artisans. Want to keep up with us? Check out our social media pages for more!

# 28TH ANNUAL FOLK FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW



**BEAVERS BEND FOLK FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend in November

**FREE Admission**  
 Folk Music • Fall Foliage Exhibits • Petting Zoo  
 Turn of the Century Demonstrations and More!

Hours: Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm  
 Sunday: 10am - 4pm  
 Location: Forest Heritage Center  
 Beavers Bend State Park  
 For More Information:  
 Phone: (580)494-6497  
 Email: okfhcmuseum@outlook.com

The Folk Festival & Craft Show, a beloved annual event, returns for its 28th year on the second weekend in November. This free festival is a highlight of the season, drawing approximately 17,000 visitors and 70

vendors to Southeast Oklahoma, perfectly timed to enjoy the stunning fall colors. The Beavers Bend Folk Festival & Craft Show is made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Forest Heritage Center Advisory Board, Oklahoma Arts Council, McCurtain County Tourism Authority, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, and Oklahoma Forestry Services. The festival is open to the public, with hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. For more information, please contact the Forest Heritage Center at 580-494-6497 or Tourism at 580-494-6300. Applications are available by email, print, or online PDFs at okfhc.org.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



"Dear Friends of the Forest,

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter! At the Forest Heritage Center, we are passionate about preserving Oklahoma's rich forestry heritage and promoting sustainable practices. In this issue, you'll find inspiring stories, educational insights, and exciting updates about our ongoing efforts. Thank you for joining us on this journey to protect and celebrate our forests."

-Shalee Buzan, Director of the Forest Heritage Center



# Kid's Corner



## Museum Terminology Word Search

N Z V D Q J R J M A E B V Z D R L N J L  
 N O V O I Y F J C M X E J C B C O M M H  
 E M I B V F Y M M I H W H A L I H Q Q F  
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 O J H Q T I R V R Z T E D Y U Z C C A T  
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 G F U W W D Q A R E C O D S T R X P E B  
 X P S H Y Q T E C O R U R L K X S T F E  
 S J J F B Y T J L I S P X O D L I G R M  
 Y Y H D N N K L B K C T R I N E T Y Z O  
 K S N T I B E W P G B N M I S S I O N J  
 U P W I K C D W E V Y E X Y Z R F Q N W  
 P E O V T N O I S S E C C A D W N E O Z  
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 S A T M Z B B V I L O A B O U N V V Z S

Accession

Collections

Curator

Docent

Exhibit

Interpretation

Mission

Preservation



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