CALLING ALL WOODWORKERS: MAKE OKLAHOMA PROUD

From this website:  http://www.forestry.ok.gov/master-woodworking-artist-of-the-year

“The Forest Heritage Center Museum (FHC), located in the heart of Beavers Bend State Park, Broken Bow, Oklahoma, was officially designated as the “Wood Art Capital of Oklahoma” in 2010. This new [claim to fame] authorizes the museum to bestow the title of “Master Woodworking Artist of the Year” to a commendable artist in their field.”

Forest Heritage Center Museum 2017 Juried Exhibit

Application Deadline: January 2nd, 2017
Application / Jury Fee: $30.00 Total
Juror's Selection Notification: January 6th, 2017

Awards Reception & Exhibit Opening: March 5, 2017
Gallery Exhibit Dates: March 5th - May 7th, 2017

“The Forest Heritage Center has been working diligently towards increasing the awareness of wood art as an art form. This exhibit will showcase the artistry of carving, turning and the many diverse art forms that can be created from wood. The entries selected for the show will represent some of the most intriguing and innovational pieces while representing the “best of the best.”

This exhibit will provide an excellent opportunity for woodworking artists to present their work to the public in a museum gallery setting that features first-class wood art collections as well as other historical forestry exhibits.”
Not an Endorsement, but ...

Paris’ **NewWind** is set to revolutionize wind power. Their Aeroleaf technology generates electricity at wind speeds of just 2 m/s (half the requirement of traditional turbines) and a 63-leaf tree can power 15 street lamps, 1,000 square meters of office space or 83% of a family home, excluding heating. Moreover, it avoids 3.2 tons of CO2 on 2,400 kWh of electricity produced by an oil-fired power station.
The 2017 Oklahoma Arbor Week Poster Contest is now open!

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are encouraged to participate in the contest with this year's theme “We all need trees!” Prizes will be awarded to the top three overall state winners. Grade winners will receive a tree seedling planting program and pizza party. To view the classroom activity and official contest rules visit http://www.forestry.ok.gov/2017-arbor-week-poster-contest

Poster Entry Deadline:
Postmarked by December 16th, 2016

Check out the 2016 Poster Contest Winner
Looking for a memorable experience this winter? Check out one of the Bald Eagle Watches going on across the state! Take advantage of the below opportunities to see our nation’s symbol soar over Oklahoma’s lakes or rivers and learn more about bald eagle ecology and their recovery story. Contact the individual Bald Eagle Watch host to learn more about registration requirements and meeting locations.

1. Lake Thunderbird State Park  
   *December 3, 10, 17, 2016, January 6 & 20, February 4 & 18, 2017*  
   (405) 321-4633  

2. Quartz Mountain Nature Park  
   *January 7, 8, 14, 22, 2017*  
   (580) 563-2238

3. Arcadia Lake  
   *January 8, 9 & 10, 2017*  
   (405) 216-7471

4. Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge  
   *January 6, 7, 13, 14, 2017*  
   (580) 626-4794

5. Sequoyah State Park  
   *January 14 & 28, 2017*  
   (918) 772-2108

6. Chickasaw National Recreation Area  
   *January 21, 2017*  
   (580) 622-7234

7. Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge & Tenkiller State Park  
   *January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017*  
   (918) 489-5641

8. Kaw Lake  
   *January 21, 2017*  
   (580) 762-9494

9. Jenks  
   *January 28, 2017*  
   tulsaaudubon.org

10. Washita National Wildlife Refuge  
    *Wildlife Tour, January 14, 2017*  
    (580) 664-2205

11. Beavers Bend State Park  
    *December - February*  
    (580) 494-6556

12. Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge  
    *Self-guided tour all season long*  
    (580) 371-2402
Audubon's 117th Christmas Bird Count will take place this fall between the inclusive dates of Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 through Thursday, January 5th, 2017.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Kenton (Black Mesa)</td>
<td>Max Thompson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maxt@cox.net">maxt@cox.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Glen Hensley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glen_hensley@fws.gov">glen_hensley@fws.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arnett</td>
<td>Eddie Stegall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ok_forbs@zoho.com">ok_forbs@zoho.com</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Washita National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Levi Feltman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:levi_feltman@fws.gov">levi_feltman@fws.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sooner Lake</td>
<td>John Couch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrcouch60@yahoo.com">jrcouch60@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>James Ownby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.ownby@okstate.edu">james.ownby@okstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tallgrass Prairie Preserve</td>
<td>Don Wolfe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwolfe@suttoncenter.org">dwolfe@suttoncenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hulah Reservoir</td>
<td>Don Wolfe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwolfe@suttoncenter.org">dwolfe@suttoncenter.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>Jo Loyd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jloyd@sbcglobal.net">jloyd@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rogers County</td>
<td>Richard Stuart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mb21010@aol.com">mb21010@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Spavinaw</td>
<td>Laura Stanfill</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laurastanfill@live.com">laurastanfill@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fort Gibson Reservoir</td>
<td>Nadine Varner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gallinuleofpurple@yahoo.com">gallinuleofpurple@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Chad Ford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chad_ford@fws.gov">chad_ford@fws.gov</a></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Broken Bow Reservoir</td>
<td>Mia Revels</td>
<td><a href="mailto:revels@nsuok.edu">revels@nsuok.edu</a></td>
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<td>Red Slough</td>
<td>Leif Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leanderson@fs.fed.us">leanderson@fs.fed.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Charles Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charles-brown@utulsa.edu">charles-brown@utulsa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>John Shackford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Johnshackford@gmail.com">Johnshackford@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Norman</td>
<td>Mark Howery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkhowery@juno.com">mkhowery@juno.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Chickasaw NRA</td>
<td>Ron Parker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron_parker@nps.gov">ron_parker@nps.gov</a></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Stephens County</td>
<td>Roma Lenehan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rlenehan@charter.net">rlenehan@charter.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>Michael Husak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michaelh@cameron.edu">michaelh@cameron.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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From the National Audubon Society:

“What is the Christmas Bird Count? The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the US, Canada and many countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24 hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

Can I just do my own CBC and send you my data? No. Since each CBC is a real census, and since the 15-mile diameter circle contains a lot of area to be covered, single-observer counts (except in unusual circumstances) cannot be allowed. To participate on the CBC you will need to join an existing CBC circle by contacting the compiler in advance of the count day.”

Blue Jay. Photo: Phyllis Burchett
Audubon Photography Award

The Oklahoma City Audubon Society offers several bumper stickers to warn other drivers; some are rectangles such as the one shown here with the Oklahoma State Bird and others are square. Click here to see the variety: http://okc-audubon.org/
Yes it is a month since Halloween, but there are still pumpkins out there! What to do with them?

From the National Wildlife Federation Blog:

1. Compost your pumpkins.
   
   Click here for instructions:
   

3. Leave seeds for wildlife.
4. Cut it into pieces for animals.
5. Save pumpkin seeds to plant in the spring for pollinators.

There are exciting things coming from The M.e.t. this Holiday Season!

The 2017 Tulsa Metropolitan Area Recycling Directory is out! Check our website or call 918-584-0584 for a print copy!

Get a copy of the “2016 Top Ten Green Gift List” at the website too.
From an NRCS Press Release by Robert Hathorn:

“When it comes to soil, most think agronomy not astronomy. But a new public service campaign featuring astronomer Laura Danly, Ph.D., suggests there’s a universal connection between the stars, the soil and all of the residents of planet Earth. It’s a connection that [was] especially significant on Dec. 5, which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has deemed World Soil Day.”

Check out these PSA videos on You Tube:

- I dig healthy soil
- Cherish the soil
- Long live the soil

These videos are also available in Spanish on the You Tube website.

This publication was announced in the last issue of The EnvironMentor. Because it is a monthly digest, there are now three issues which are being archived at this URL: http://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/research-digest/?utm_source=Research+Digest+November+2016&utm_campaign=Nov2016+Research+Digest&utm_medium=email
Wildlife Photographer of the Year calls on photographers worldwide to put nature in the frame. Whether you're young, old, professional or amateur, we'd like to see work that raises awareness of the beauty and fragility of the natural world.

WPY 53 is open for entries now until 15 December 2016. Enter now and join the legacy.

Rules and entry applications are at this URL: [http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy.html)

Welcome to the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards

**2016 WINNERS ANNOUNCED!**

Have a look in the GALLERY Page to see the wonderful, amazing and hilarious winners from this year's competition.

HIGHLY COMMENDED 2016

‘Cheetah pondering the speed limit… [hmmm].

© Vaughan Jessnitz

Editor’s Note: The EnvironMentor will notify our readers when the competition is accepting submissions for 2017.

WINNER of The Nikon Creatures of the Land Category, and OVERALL WINNER 2016 'A tough day at the office' © Angela Bohlke
Do your part to protect water!

This FREE training will be held Friday and Saturday. Participants will learn about:
* performing water quality tests
* stream ecology
* field collections
* educating the public about pollution prevention

Who can be a volunteer?
Middle and High School Students
Teachers
Farmers & Ranchers
Retired folks
Professionals
4-H Leaders & members
Anyone with an interest in clean water!

For more information and to register, contact:
Kim Shaw
405-522-4738
Kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov

Blue Thumb
New Volunteer Training
FREE!!!!
January 27-28, 2017

Oklahoma City University
2501 N. Blackwelder, OKC, OK
Science & Math Building
Room # (TBA)

Friday 6pm-930pm
Saturday 830am-430pm

Blue Thumb is sponsored by:
Oklahoma Conservation Commission
USDA Natural Resources Service
Beetle Reintroduction Boosts Numbers

American burying beetles, who were once placed on the endangered species list and only found in Rhode Island, have now been found across the United States, including Oklahoma.

The beetle was once found in 35 U.S. states and southern Canada. By 1989, only one population was known, in Rhode Island, and it became the first insect designated as a federally endangered species. Since then, additional populations have been found in Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Nebraska and Arkansas.

Experts don't know what precipitated the beetle's decline, but scientists speculate it may have been due to pesticides, habitat loss and destruction, or competition by other scavengers of dead animals.

The only Missouri population is the one reintroduced at Wah'Kon-Tah. Researchers this year found 377 beetles in Missouri that had been notched on their hard wing covers, which distinguishes captive-bred from wild beetles. The zoo said 473 un-notched beetles were found — offspring of reintroduced beetles.
Registration is now OPEN

for the SECOND

OKLAHOMA BIODIVERSITY FORUM

Saturday February 4, 2017

ODWC’s Arcadia Conservation Education Education Building
on the south shore of Lake Arcadia, Edmond, OK.

Register Here!

Attendance is free, but registration is required for us to plan a productive day of discussion.

If you would like to know more about the Network and the Forum click here.

Oklahoma Biodiversity Network

Building a collaborative community to tackle some of the most pressing biological conservation issues in Oklahoma.

Help an entire new generation appreciate the work of forest management with this unique activity book. This 28-page book features scenes and situations common in today’s world of forestry. From planting and habitat to fire and production, this fun-filled book helps children better understand how your work helps forests.

$12.95 plus S&H

Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association

March 29-30\textsuperscript{th}, 2016

Wes Watkins Center, Stillwater, Oklahoma

The OCLWA invites your participation in our Silver Anniversary Conference to be held 8 am to 5 pm, March 29-30, 2016 at the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Our conference comprises multiple presentation tracks, poster sessions, and an expanded exhibition area focused on lake, watershed, and water quality management issues. Consider presenting your important work in water quality by completing the attached Call for Papers and/or Call for Posters forms today!

ONLINE REGISTRATION!
(http://2016-oclwa.eventbrite.com)

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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Free!</td>
<td>Free!</td>
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LODGING: Lodging near the conference is suggested at the Best Western (405.372.2878) or Microtel (405.372.7100). For additional information on these or other lodging options, go to http://www.visitstillwater.org/.

Registration: Shanon Phillips ph: 405.522.4728; fx: 405.522.4770; shanon.phillips@conservation.ok.gov
Papers: Greg Kloxin ph: 405.522.4737; fx: 405.522.4770; greg.kloxin@conservation.ok.gov
Posters: Ray West ph: 918.633.1502; fx: 918.699.2866; rwest@cityoftulsa.org
Vend./Spons.: Monty Porter ph: 405.530.8933; fx: 405.530.8900; monty.porter@owrb.ok.gov
There was once a black-footed ferret who had lived for years near a prairie dog town, feasting on the little rodents with ease. But as she got older and less nimble, it became harder for her to slink through their burrows at night, catching them as they slept. "I need a new way of hunting," she thought. "I must use my wits!"

So one day she crept close to the prairie dog town and began to act as if she was praying and reciting verses. Eventually a brave prairie dog came close enough to ask timidly, "Miz Ferret, what are you doing?"

She replied, "I am praying for forgiveness for my many years of attacking your town. I was a wick-ed ferret! But I have seen the light. I no longer eat furry beasts--just birds and crickets. I hope your town will forgive me, and accept me as your friend."

This would be very good news for the prairie dogs. "That's great!" he said, and hurried underground to tell everyone. They spilled out onto the open prairie to stare in wonder at Miz Ferret, who continued her phony praying and reciting. Could it really be true that she would no longer hunt them?

"My friends," she assured them, "I'm as harmless to you now, as a rabbit or a burrowing owl! All I ask is that you will parade past me every evening, so that I can greet each of you one at a time. We will bow to each oth-er in humble friendship."

A parade! That sounded like fun. It would be easy to do, and would celebrate their freedom from ferret atta-cks. So that very evening they lined up in single file. As they marched past Miz Ferret, each one bowed deeply to her and she bowed deeply to them. "Forgive me," she murmured, and they responded, "Thank you, you're welcome."

When only one prairie dog was left to file past Miz Ferret, and all the others were heading back into their bur-rrows, she pounced-- and had a tasty supper. She left not a bone nor a scrap of fur to show what had hap-pened to the last prairie dog in line.

The next evening, and several more, the prairie dogs again paraded past Miz Ferret and she got an easy meal. I guess prairie dogs can't count! But two young prairie dogs noticed that some of their friends were missing, and devised a plan. Cyndy said, "Ludy, I'll march near the head of the line if you'll march at the very end. Whenever I call your name, be sure to answer 'Here I am!' That way, I'll know you're still safe."

Indeed as soon as Cyndy had bowed to Miz Ferret, she called, "Ludy, where are you?" and Ludy answered, "Here I am!" from the end of the line. They continued calling back and forth until Ludy had safely bowed. Miz Ferret didn't dare to snatch a prairie dog whose friend was keeping track of her.

Miz Ferret went to bed annoyed and hungry that night, but looked forward to a tasty prairie dog the next day. However, Ludy and Cyndy played their calling trick again!

By the third evening, Miz Ferret was so hungry that when she heard Cyndy call, "Ludy, where are you?" again, she lost her temper and pounced on the nearest prairie dog. They yipped in alarm and raced for their burrows! She was too weak from hunger to catch any of them, and had to settle for a mouse and three crickets. Yech.

As for the prairie dogs, they learned never to trust a ferret again.

---

Fran Stallings

(Continued on Page 15)
Prairie Dogs, Ferrets, and... M&Ms?

Black footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) do indeed prey upon sleeping black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*), but Oklahoma prairie dogs needn't fear them: ferrets have been extinct in our state for many years. However, the rare ferret populations in Montana and other states are threatened by something that threatens prairie dogs as well: sylvatic plague.

This serious disease, a variety of the Bubonic ("Black") Plague (*Yersinia pestis*) that hit Europe's human population centuries ago, is spread by fleas on the rats that can infest prairie dog burrows. Insecticide doesn't help much because it's expensive, hard to spread into the burrows, and the fleas were becoming resistant. Fortunately there's a vaccine against sylvatic plague. If all the prairie dogs in an area are immunized against the disease, the rare ferrets will be safe too! Unfortunately, it's even more difficult and expensive to catch all the prairie dogs and give them their shots.

Fortunately there's an oral version of the vaccine. But how can you entice prairie dogs to come swallow a dose? Wildlife biologists at UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge in north-eastern Montana have found that prairie dogs like candy. "A modified fish bait machine has helped create the vaccine, which will consist of M&Ms smeared in vaccine-laden peanut butter.... lab tests show that prairie dogs find the bait 'delicious', with a dye added to the mix reliably showing up on the animals' whiskers." Tests in seven states, on four species of prairie dogs, demonstrated that this method worked to immunize prairie dogs.

But it can't be very effective unless the dosed M&Ms can be spread cheaply and efficiently throughout large areas of prairie dog habitat. Rangers on foot could cover just 3-6 acres per hour. Rangers in ATVs could cover more territory, maybe 60 acres/hr, but risk destroying the burrows and disrupting the habitat. So the wildlife biologists at are testing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS): drones! A single drone operator could cover up to 200 acres/hr, delivering M&Ms smeared with yummy [vaccine] peanut butter to prairie dog towns.

So when people on holiday parade floats throw candy at you, think of the prairie dogs getting their vaccinations that way--from drones. Healthy prairie dog towns may bring ferrets back from the brink of extinction, and eventually return to Oklahoma.

**SOURCES**

**Story:**


**Science:**


Green Words for All Ages

Did you enjoy reading the tale of the black-footed ferret and the prairie dogs on Page 14? Then you might just like to borrow the *Phantom of the Prairie: Year of the Black-Footed Ferret*, by Jonathan London with pictures by Barbara Bash, from your local library. Part of the story is about prairie dogs too. Follow Phantom and her littermates through a year on the high prairie. Did you know that black-footed ferrets are native to Oklahoma? You may not see them when you’re on a hike because they’re nocturnal, but keep an eye out.

Review by Sarah Markham

This is the most unusual “how-to” book you might ever read! In his book, *How to Read Water: Clues and Patterns from Puddles to the Sea*, Tristan Gooley calls this a “lost art.” But it doesn’t have to stay lost, even here in Oklahoma. He says that you can practice these navigational tools on puddles, but there are enough lakes, ponds, and streams to use we don’t have to resort to the rare puddle. What we know about ripples or waves can tell us about the location of objects in the water. This is how islanders traveled from island to island in the South Seas. While we are enjoying a vacation by the water we are often mesmerized by the waves as they roll onto and recede from the beach. Did you know there might be as many as four different types of breakers? You can even learn to “read the beach.” Patterns of light as you look across the water can tell you what’s under the water. And the most enjoyable aspect about this book may be that Gooley tells you how all this was discovered. Enjoy this Zen-like experience beside your favorite body of water.

Review by Sarah Markham
On February 23, 2013 The EnvironMentor dipped a toe into social media. We made this decision because, at this time, there are two to three months between issues of the Newsletter. During this past gap an important event had an application deadline of April 1st so an announcement went out from Facebook. We won’t bother you with anything trivial, so …

“Allike” The EnvironMentor on Facebook!!

QUIKList Oklahoma
Leopold Education Project
http://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/lep.shtml
Type in Oklahoma

Oklahoma Blue Thumb
http://bluethumbok.com/

Oklahoma Blue Thumb Association
ok.bluethumb.association@gmail.com

Oklahoma Green Schools
http://www.okgreenschools.org/

Oklahoma Master Naturalists
http://okmasternaturalist.org/

Oklahoma Native Plant Society
http://oknativeplants.org/

Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA)
http://www.recycleok.org/okra/

Project Learning Tree (PLT)
http://www.plt.org/
http://www.forestry.ok.gov/project-learning-tree

As with all hyperlinks in The EnvironMentor Newsletter, these are clickable.

Do you know an environmental group in Oklahoma that should be listed. Send that information to:
environmentor@okcu.edu

10301 South Sunnylane Road
405-814-0006
http://www.museumofosteology.org/
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
To go directly to The Calendar click on: 

http://www.okcu.edu/environmentor