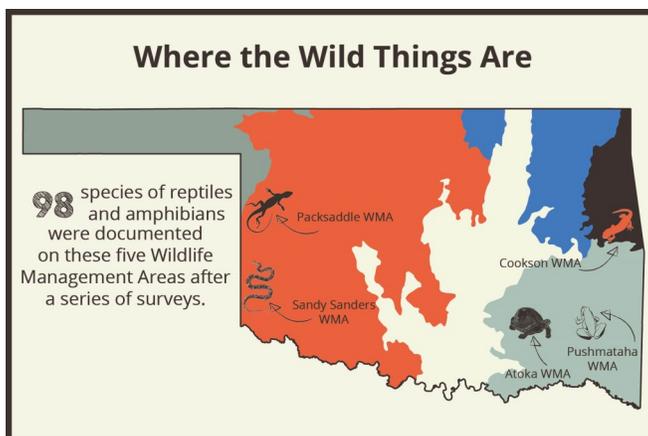


Online Field Guide Showcases Reptiles and Amphibians of Five Wildlife Management Areas

The Wildlife Department's 96 managed areas may be best known for their hunting and fishing opportunities, but they also offer memorable wildlife-watching experiences. After a spring rain, you may spot a small-mouthed salamander crossing one of Cookson WMA's roads, or you may stumble across a plains hog-nosed snake eating a toad on Sandy Sanders WMA. Information about these amphibians and reptiles – and a list of other possible wildlife encounters – is now outlined in an online field guide developed by the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History's Herpetology Department, housed at wildlifedepartment.com. The webpages document the 98 species of reptiles and amphibians found on five Wildlife Management Areas; [Atoka](#) and [Pushmataha](#) in the southeast, [Cookson](#) in the northeast, [Packsaddle](#) in the northwest and [Sandy Sanders](#) in the southwest. Surveys of these areas' reptile and amphibian communities were conducted from 2006 to 2010 by Dr. Laurie Vitt and his fellow researchers from the SNMNH and the University of Oklaho-



Arranged by Wildlife Management Area, each webpage catalogs the species found on the area and provides a description and photographs of that WMA's habitats. Clicking on a specific animal's photograph takes you to a full page account that de-

tails the animal's size, natural history, distribution within the state, and conservation status. Dr. Vitt has also provided his tips for observing the animal on the WMAs!

Whether you're planning a trip to one of these WMAs or simply want to familiarize yourself with the reptiles and amphibians that may be in your ecoregion, this online guide is an excellent resource for learning about Oklahoma's herpetofauna.

Other resources include "A Field Guide to Oklahoma's Amphibians and Reptiles" by Greg and Lynnette Sievert and "Reptiles of Oklahoma" by Robert Webb.

Note: See page 3 for a sample page about the Smallmouth Salamander.

In this issue ...

Editor's Note: Please make note of the following correct URL www.okcu.edu/artsci/environmentor. Thank you.

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Not an Endorsement , but ...

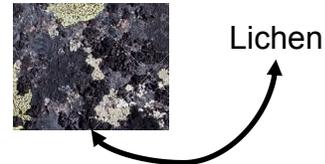
Upcycle any Barrel into a Sink - what a great idea!
how to -->><http://goo.gl/cYaRjV>



From The Whoot

Quiz!! Quiz!! Quiz!!

What animal can be found under logs and rocks in the spring from Texas through the central part of the United States to Ohio and Michigan? It would blend in well because it resembles lichen.



The answer to this question can be found on Page 3.



An environmental education newsletter for the citizens of Oklahoma sponsored by the Department of Biology at Oklahoma City University. Items appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions or endorsement of the sponsoring organization.

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Environmentor@okcu.edu

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Smallmouth Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*)

Family Ambystomatidae

Smallmouth Salamanders are moderate-sized salamanders with distinctively small heads and eyes. The entire body is dark, usually black, blue-black, or greenish-black with no conspicuous markings. Many individuals have a very subtle pattern of flecking that resembles the pattern of lichens. Front and hind legs are slightly lighter in coloration, often dark bluish or greenish. The tail is laterally compressed but there is no fin. The lack of distinguishing characteristics and overall uniform dark coloration distinguish this salamander from all other species in the region.

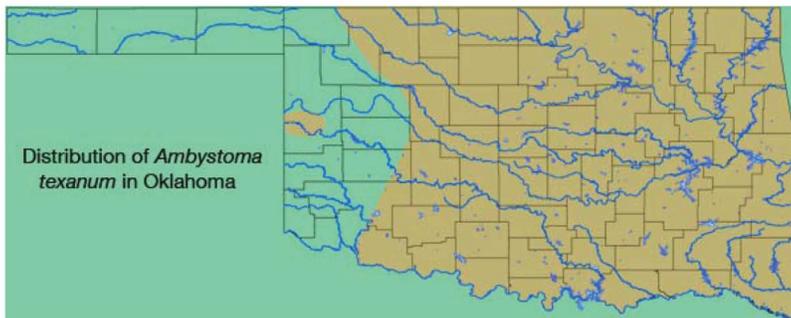
Size: Smallmouth Salamanders can reach seven inches in total length. Most adults vary from four to six inches in total length.

Natural History: Smallmouth Salamanders occupy a wide variety of habitats, from woodlands to pastures, and are often very common. Like other species of mole salamanders (genus *Ambystoma*), Smallmouth Salamanders spend most of the year underground, except for when they breed. Adult Smallmouth Salamanders migrate to temporary ponds during rainstorms in late Winter, usually February or March. They breed in everything from low woodland ponds to roadside ditches. Migrations typically last only a few days. Once in the ponds, courtship occurs and males deposit a spermatophore (see [Central Newt](#) for a description of spermatophores) on the pond bottom and females pick up the spermatophore with their cloaca. Females can deposit from 300–800 eggs, but they usually deposit them in small clumps (50 eggs or less). The clumps are attached to vegetation in the water. The aquatic larvae transform during Summer and leave the ponds. Larvae feed on a variety of aquatic invertebrates including ostracods and cladocerans. As the larvae increase in size, they include larger invertebrates in their diets. Adults feed on a variety of invertebrates and likely eat a lot of earthworms.

Distribution: The distribution of Smallmouth Salamanders in the United States extends from central Texas through Ohio and north to south from southern Michigan to southeastern Texas.



Adult Smallmouth Salamander showing subtle lichen pattern.



Observing Smallmouth Salamanders: Because of their secretive habits, Smallmouth Salamanders are difficult to observe. During Spring mating migrations, they can often be found under logs or rocks near the ponds in which they breed, and they can be captured in the ponds using dip-nets. Larvae can be observed during Spring and Early Summer by dip-netting ponds. However, in most parts of Oklahoma, Smallmouth Salamanders co-occur with other species of mole salamanders, and it can be difficult to distinguish larvae of Smallmouth Salamanders from larvae of other species of *Ambystoma*.

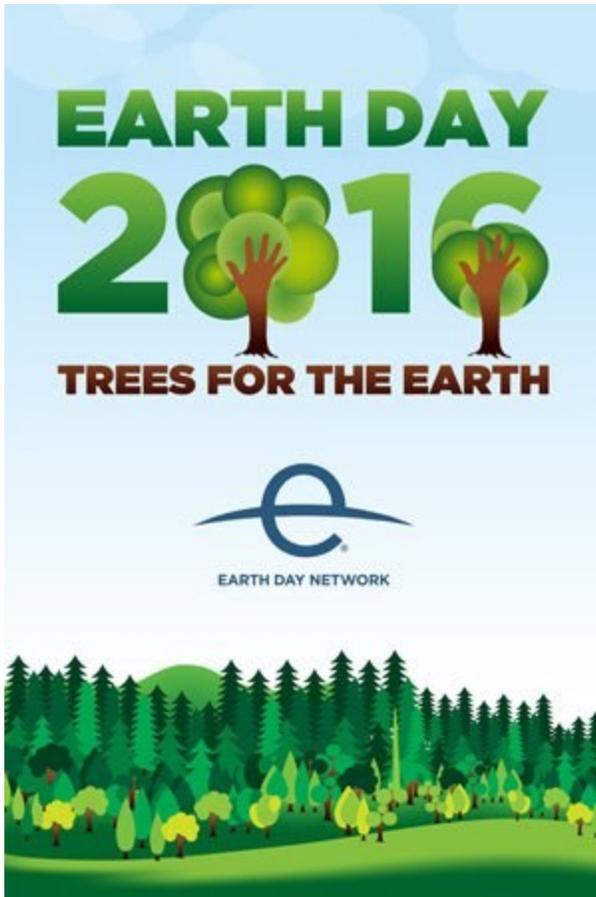
Conservation Notes: Smallmouth Salamanders are not considered threatened or endangered by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. They are widespread in the state, abundant where they occur, and breed in a variety of temporary ponds. Consequently, the only threats to Smallmouth Salamanders in Oklahoma are contamination or loss of low-lying areas in which temporary ponds develop.



Close up of the head of the Smallmouth Salamander.



Sam Noble Museum



Trees for the Earth

Let's get planting!

Over the next five years, as Earth Day moves closer to its 50th anniversary, we're calling on you to help us achieve one of our most ambitious goals yet —we're planting 7.8 billion trees and we're starting now.

Trees will be the first of five major goals we are undertaking in honor of the five-year countdown

to our 50th anniversary. On their own and together, these initiatives will make a significant and measurable impact on the Earth and will serve as the foundation of a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable planet for all.

Why Trees?

They absorb excess and harmful CO₂ from our atmosphere. In fact, in a single year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the same amount of CO₂ produced by driving the average car 26,000 miles.

Trees help us breathe clean air.

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

Trees help communities.

Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability and provide food, energy and income.

Plant a tree. Make a donation. Activate your friends and social networks.

We can do this. #trees4earth

- See more at: <http://www.earthday.org/earth-day/earth-day-theme/#sthash.TjqSu4ns.dpuf>



Friday, April 22 - Noon-1:00pm (Free)

CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

We love trees here at SixTwelve and what better excuse to plant one than Earthday. Join us for light snacks as we plant a ceremonial tree that will produce food for years to come.

Saturday, April 23 - 4:00pm-6:00pm (Free)

FRIENDSHIP SEED & PLANT EXCHANGE...

SixTwelve works toward a community based around growing food. The Friendship Seed & Plant Exchange is a chance for local gardeners and farmers to connect with others who enjoy connecting to nature through growing plants and food. Garden leftovers and plants that need new homes are ideal for sharing at this gathering. The event is open to new and experienced growers.

Saturday, April 23, 6:00pm-7:00pm (Free)

COMMUNITY TRASH FREE POTLUCK

Participants can bring a potluck dish (vegetarian appreciated but not necessary) to share in a community meal. This is a no trash event so bring your own reuseable plate, silverware and drinks.

Saturday, April 23, 7:00pm-8:20pm (Donations Accepted)

CAN YOU DIG THIS (FILM)

Can You Dig This explores the urban gardening revolution currently taking place in South Central Los Angeles, one of the largest food deserts in the country. We follow the inspirational personal journeys of five 'gangster gardeners,' all planting the seeds for a better life.

Sunday, April 24 - 1:00pm-3:00pm (Donations Accepted)

GARDENING FOR THE SENSES: A PLACEMAKING WORKSHOP

Join permaculture designers and educators Matt Bowman and Laura Kenedy for a placemaking workshop at SixTwelve. Learn and practice effective tools for designing spaces that evoke desired moods and feelings. Realize the full potential of your yard and develop a deeper connection to your natural landscape. Find inspiration to transform your home landscape into a place that feeds all of your senses!



Have you ever wanted to be a scientist? Or help a scientist make new discoveries?

Join the Herpetology Department, Sam Noble Museum in a brand-new citizen science project, where YOU become the scientist collecting real-world data!

What is Citizen Science? Citizen Science is an up and coming method of gathering scientific data collection by members of the general public, rather than traditional scientists. It is a great way to collect large quantities of data over a larger spatial scale than what can be collected by a couple of scientists. It also gives non-scientists new skills and an appreciation for nature.

What is herpetology? Herpetology is the study of reptiles (i.e. lizards, snakes, turtles) and amphibians (i.e. frogs, salamanders).

What is chytrid? The word chytrid is short for chytridiomycosis, a fungal disease that infects the keratinized structures on amphibians, such as skin and tadpole mouthparts (keratin is also present in your hair, skin, and nails). There are two forms of virulent chytrid: *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) infects frogs and salamanders and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bs or Bsal) infects only salamanders. This study will focus on frogs, because Bs has not yet been found in the US. Bd however, is found in every state in the US, but very little is known about how common the disease is among frogs in Oklahoma. This is where you all come in!

What will you get in the citizen science kit?

- 10 pre-sterile, individually packaged cotton swabs
- 10 pre-sterile, 1.5mL screwtop vials
- Instructions, datasheets, and a permanent marker
- Oklahoma frog identification guide

If you are an Oklahoma teacher with **easy access to a local pond or stream**, we encourage you to participate with your students. We can determine if a frog has chytrid by rubbing a swab, similar to a Q-tip, along certain places of their body and then testing for the presence of chytrid DNA.

Request your FREE kit to receive the above supplies and then go to <http://cameronsiler.com/citizen-science/> to download your teacher packet, which contains lesson plan, student worksheets, science standards, and background information. In the coming months, as the results are analyzed, we will share them with you.

Contact Herpetology Collection Manager Jessa Watters (jwatters@ou.edu) or download a form from <http://cameronsiler.com/citizen-science/> to request your kit today!



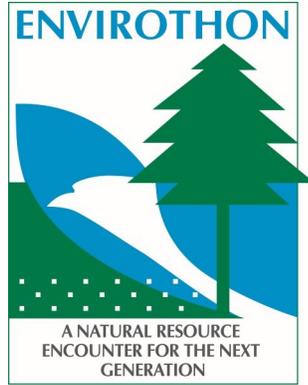
Sam Noble Museum



Extra! Extra!

Team from Edmond North High School

Wins Oklahoma Envirothon!



Eight teams from across the state competed in the 2016 Oklahoma Envirothon testing five environmental areas (aquatic ecology, forestry, invasive species, soil, and wildlife). The winning team will have the opportunity to advance to the North American Envirothon competition, this year to be held in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, July 24-29, 2016.

At 8:00 A.M. on Friday, April 1, 2016, teams of five students along with their advisors began to gather in the Noble Foundation Convention Center across the street from the Noble Foundation campus in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Excitement was high.

This was the second year this event was held around the Convention Center at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma. It was held “around” the Convention Center to take advantage of the lake, trees, soil pit, and acres of open land upon which the knowledge of each team was tested. Even though the morning was cold with a stiff north wind, the students measured, observed, and diligently worked on the answers to the tests. The afternoon was warmer after the clouds burned off, but the excellent lunch of steak and chicken fajitas and cookies made everyone sleepy. The students



Pictured are two teams working separately on the Aquatic Ecology test.

rotated through the tests and oral presentations that highlighted environmental realities in the state of Oklahoma. This was where months of study in each of the five sections was going to pay off. Each team represented their schools with distinction and should be very proud of their showing.

Although everyone received a bag with a t-shirt and other festive items, only the three top-scoring teams would receive awards. First place winning team would, then, be eligible to advance to the North American Envirothon Competition which, this year, is being held in Canada. While this is an honor, it is also a challenge because, unlike being required to know the ecology of Oklahoma, our team from Edmond North High School will be tested on their knowledge of Canadian aquatics, trees, soils, invasive species and wildlife. Team members will be hard at work between now and the third week in July to commit vast amounts of knowledge to understanding.

Oklahoma cheers you on!



How to pledge

Enter your photo on our [Butterfly Heroes Pledge](#) of you, your family, or your community making the American Sign Language sign for butterfly. The sign for butterfly is made by linking your thumbs and crossing your two hands in front of you at the wrists with your palms facing you.

The Kit

Once you have taken the pledge to be a Butterfly Hero, you will receive your **Butterfly Garden Starter Packet**. In this kit you will find:

- **Seed packet with native milkweed or a flowering nectar plant**
- Monarchs drink nectar from flowers and their caterpillars eat only milkweed
- **A list of milkweed and nectar plants native to your region**
- Ask your garden center for the best plants on our list to add to your garden
- **Ranger Rick Wildlife Notebook**
- Observe your garden and the butterflies, caterpillars, and other wildlife that make it their new home!

After receiving your kit, check out our [Learning to Garden](#) page to get helpful tips on starting your wildlife garden! For example, be sure to plant your seed packet in a sunny spot with some protection from the wind. Use your Ranger Rick notebook to make notes on the wildlife in your garden and the types of caterpillars your garden attracts. Your butterfly garden seeds will sprout in the spring, grow in summer and fall, and then come back next year! Share a photo of your garden on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



2nd Annual Oklahoma Green Schools Summit

Thursday, May 19, 2016

9:45 am to 2:00 pm

Norman High School

911 W. Main St, Norman, OK 73069

Tour Norman High's Aquaponics System



See what's growing in the garden

Hear Student Presentations on "Going Green"



Plus...
Hands on
Activities!



Urges You to Attend

ENVIRO EXPO

4.20.16 • 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Tulsa - Between 4th & 5th on Main Street





Spring 2016 Workshops

What is a PLT workshop?

PLT is an interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum that is focused on experiential learning, diversity, interrelationships, systems, patterns of change, structure and scale, and of course FUN! Meet your STEM objectives here!

Join us as we explore the PLT PreK-8th grade curriculum! This six hour workshop will teach educators how to incorporate PLT activities in their current lesson plans and curriculum.

Workshops are available for both formal and non-formal educators. Workshop fees are \$25 which includes the PreK-8th grade curriculum with over 90 activities and other resources.

Spring 2016 Workshop Dates and Locations:

April 9th, 9am-3pm, Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow

April 22nd, 9am-3pm, Beavers Bend State Park, Broken Bow

May 21st, 9am-3pm, Myraid Botanical Gardens in OKC

To register for a workshop visit www.forestry.ok.gov/workshop-schedule

Blue Thumb

Training for New Volunteers

Sponsored by—Stephens County Conservation District and Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Training Date: (2016)

Friday, May 13, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14,

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Training Location:

Stephens County Conservation District, 3901 W. Beech,
Duncan, OK

To Register—call

Cheryl Cheadle

918-398-1804 or

cheryl.cheadle@

conservation.ok.gov

Do your part for clean water!



On Saturday afternoon a group of us marked the storm drains in town. Keep your eyes open for these next time you are out walking in Tishomingo! A big thank you to all of those that volunteered their time to make this project possible.



RSVP HERE:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/22nd-annual-creek-clean-up-tickets-24295141422?aff=efbevent>

22nd Annual Creek Clean-up
May 21 | 10am-2pm
Philbrook Museum of Art
2727 S. Rockford Road

Join us for the 22nd Annual Creek Clean up of Crow Creek. Light snacks and educational presentation will be provided before the event and lunch provided by RibCrib during the event that will be held on the movie lawn behind the museum. Door prizes will be given out to participants as well as other prizes for the most interesting piece of trash that is found.

H.O.P.E. Day

Hands-On Projects for the Environment

Oklahoma Biodiversity Network, BioBlitz! Oklahoma, and Selman Living Lab are joining forces to help clean-up and begin repairs at the Selman Living Lab after wildfires burned through the area in early April.

The Selman Living Lab (SLL) is the field station for the University of Central Oklahoma's Biology Department and represents a wide array of natural environments in the mixed grass ecoregion of northwestern Oklahoma. Habitats include large bat caves, gypsum outcrops, and native prairie. Biologists from across Oklahoma are welcome to use this site for teaching and research. The SLL is recognized as a Natural Heritage Area by the Oklahoma Biological Survey.

The wildfire burned over 57,000 acres across Woodward County including the SLL headquarters area and research acreage. Fences melted, survey markers destroyed, trenches dug, and soot and ash are everywhere!

NEED: 60 Volunteers, age 5 and up, to begin clean-up and repairs

WHEN? Saturday May 14th 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WHERE? Selman Living Lab, northern Woodward Co. (map and directions on website)

Volunteers:

- will be given tasks that match their abilities
- may camp onsite the night before and after the H.O.P.E. Day clean-up event
- will be rewarded with a cook-out at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday

Attendees should:

- bring your own lunch and water bottle
- bring your own work or garden gloves
- if you have one, please bring a shovel and garden rake (heavy kind for dirt, not leaves)
- wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty, including long pants, sturdy shoes, and a hat

Questions? contact H.O.P.E. Committee Chair, Priscilla Crawford, prill@ou.edu, 405-255-8106

Registration and more info: okbiodiversity.org/hopeday2016



An Oklahoma Biodiversity Network Project

60th Annual

OKLAHOMA YOUTH FORESTRY CAMP!

Save the Date for the 60th
annual Oklahoma Youth Forestry
Camp!!!
JUNE 6th-11th, 2016!



Join us for a week long adventure in the forest!

This unique camp offers boys and girls the opportunity to learn about Oklahoma's forests from Natural Resource Professionals. From wildlife to water, forests are a vital resource for everyone!

Not only will you be learning about Oklahoma's amazing forests but there will be time for swimming, hiking, and outdoor recreation in one of Oklahoma's most beautiful state parks!

Boys and girls aged 13-15 are encouraged to apply for this awesome summer experience! Camp staff positions are available too.

Registration opens in March 2016
Scan the QR code to see our camp video or visit www.forestry.ok.gov





**Prairie Waters:
An Introduction
to Streams and
Oxbows**

June 23, 2016

**Learn about water
quality, soil health, &
field activities you can
do with your students.**

Cost: \$20

**Home on the
Range:
Observations and
Connections to the
Prairie**

July 14, 2016

**Learn about prairie
ecosystems, how
humans have impacted
them, and our
connections to the land
and the past.**

Cost: \$20

**JUNE 23 & JULY 14
SAVE THE DATE!**

**Teacher Professional Development by BlueSTEM
AgriLearning Center Oklahoma Blue Thumb
Program**

Two summer field workshops for teachers (middle school, high school, home school parents, and informal educators) will take place at BlueSTEM AgriLearning Center at Fort Reno. Both workshops are from 9:30-3:30. Lunch is provided. Join conservationists, scientists, historians, and educators for one or both of these workshops. You will learn how to engage students with history, geography, and the natural resources of central OK.



**BLUESTEM
AGRILEARNING
CENTER**

7107 W. Cheyenne St.
El Reno, OK 73036
405-422-5072
bluestem@fortreno.org
bluestemagrilearning.org



Join Blue Thumb and the
Grand River Dam Authority
for A Grand Adventure!
A Stream and Lake Educator
Workshop!

Join us as we tour and learn about the Grand Lake watershed, which starts in Kansas and encompasses parts of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma before it flows into the Arkansas River. You will also learn what it takes to protect our water resources, and receive information and activities that you can take back to your classroom!

This workshop is modeled after a summer camp for children and you will enjoy many of the same activities they do including a ride on the GRDA Eco-lab boat and time spent in a creek discovering what lives there!

So join us from 9 - 3 on June 1 - 3, 2016 for A Grand Adventure!

Cost to attend is \$50 which includes lunch each day, a t-shirt and tools you can take back to your classroom. We will meet each morning at the GRDA Ecosystems & Education Building at the Pensacola Dam. If you need a place to stay we have blocked a few rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Vinita. Be sure to tell them you are with A Grand Adventure for a reduced rate. Teachers can get the state rate.

To register online visit <https://grandadventureworkshop.eventbrite.com> or mail the attached form with your check payable to the Oklahoma Blue Thumb Association to Oklahoma Conservation Commission Attn: Jeri Fleming, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd. Ste. 11A, Oklahoma City, OK 7105

For questions contact Jeri Fleming at jeri.fleming@conservation.ok.gov or 405-334-6343.

Yes! I want to attend A Grand Adventure Stream and Lake Educator Workshop.

Name: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Enclosed please find my check made out to Oklahoma Blue Thumb Association in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

Mail form and check to Oklahoma Conservation Commission Attn: Jeri Fleming, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd. Ste 11A, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Be Careful What You Wish For

The old folks say that there was once a man who did a good deed for a leprechaun, who generously rewarded him with three wishes and a warning: "Be careful what you wish for!"

The man hurried home and told his wife the good news. What should they wish for? A bigger house? Money? Good health? A long old age? As they talked and dreamed, they began to argue. "I earned the wishes," the man said. "I should decide what we get."

"But after all our years together, don't I get a say in these important decisions?" countered the wife.

They wrangled late into the evening, forgetting about supper until the man got so hungry that he remarked, "I wish I had a hot juicy sausage for supper." BING! There it was, steaming on a plate in front of him.

"A sausage!" cried the wife. "You wasted one of our precious wishes on a sausage? I wish it was stuck on the end of your nose!" BING! There it was, hanging from his nose.

Now what could they do? He couldn't spend the rest of his life with a sausage stuck to his nose. They had to use up their third wish to get it off. BING!

I hope it was tasty.

From The Earthteller,

Fran Stallings

There are many traditional stories about magic wishes, but they usually end with people no better off than they were at the start. I guess our ancestors knew that there was no such thing as a "free lunch." When something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



from a blogspot by Susan Reimer at this URL: http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/features/gardening/2011/04/bradford_pears_pretty_but_a_pa.html. Susan blogs about this subject here.

We should have remembered that when callery pear trees (*Pyrus calleryana*) seemed to be everything we wanted for our yards and city landscaping. We didn't wish for much! just that a tree should have pretty flowers and/or foliage; grow anywhere; be free of pests; and have no fruits that would attract birds or critters. City arborists also favored a tree that didn't need expensive tree surgeon services, as required by mature oaks or elms. Could one kind of tree do all that?

Botanists originally brought *P.calleryana* from China and Viet Nam early in the 1900s as rootstock for grafting edible european pears (*P. communis*). Our American insects didn't like the asian tree: pest free! And it thrived in sandy or clay soil, wet or dry, acidic or alkaline. Plus-- it had gorgeous white flowers and, like any pear or apple, each cultivar was self-sterile: it couldn't set fruit unless it was pollinated by a different cultivar. By the 1950's, the "Bradford" cultivar was promoted as an ornamental tree and began to be planted in yards and towns across the country. This monoculture bore no pesky fruits! and the city arborists appreciated the way a wind or ice storm would make a mature Bradford suddenly fall apart. Cut it down, cart it off, plant another. No expensive maintenance.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from Page 16)

But of course all the "Bradford" pear trees had the same shape. "Can't you breed some with a teardrop crown? A tall columnar crown? A round lollipop crown?" Of course! All the breeders needed was some new genetic samples from Asia. New varieties were widely planted and, lo and behold, they cross pollinated and bore fruit--not large or juicy, but attractive to birds. Isn't that good?

Unfortunately, while we admire the frothy white flowers that cover the trees and snow petals down on us, we must hold our noses: they smell like rotting fish.

There are other reasons to decide that callery pears were "too good to be true." In Oklahoma and many other states, vacant lots near homes are now crowded with callery pears from the seeds spread by those birds. They thrive untended, in almost all soil types (just like we wanted them to). But they crowd out native species. They are pest-free (just like we wanted). Since native insects can't eat them, they produce no bugs or caterpillars for our native birds to feed their babies. They just grow and bloom and spread, decorating our countryside in March. They sure do look pretty with the redbuds...

What can we do to "get this sausage off our noses"?

Wiping out the wild invasive trees is difficult, because they cheerfully resprout from stumps.

Some towns have banned the planting of any variety of callery pear in city parks or streets, and discourage homeowners from planting them. Instead, we can plant native species that look pretty but are not invasive, and can support native insects for our birds to eat. Recommended trees include common serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*), cockspur hawthorne (*Crataegus crus-galli*), green hawthorne (*C. viridis*) and the native sweet crabapple (*Malus coronaria*).



Common Serviceberry from: <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/factsheets/28nativetrees.html>. More information can be found here.



Thornless Cockspur Hawthorne from: <https://conservationgardenpark.org/plants/168/thornless-cockspur-hawthorn>. More information can be found here.



Native Sweet Crabapple from: <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/varieties-fruiting-crabapples-44741.html>. More information can be found here.

Callery pears looked too good to be true.
And they were!

Regular Readers of The EnvironMentor Newsletter know that there is an endless source of environmental stories as theme, allegory, or legend from our own Earthteller, Fran Stallings. Although this listing does not have a stated connection to the environment, we need more storytellers. Enjoy!

STORY

THE FORCE RE-AWAKENS

FESTIVAL

110th ANNIVERSARY
2007-2016



*Spirit of
Oklahoma
Storytelling Festival*



Featuring Internationally Known
Barbara McBride Smith

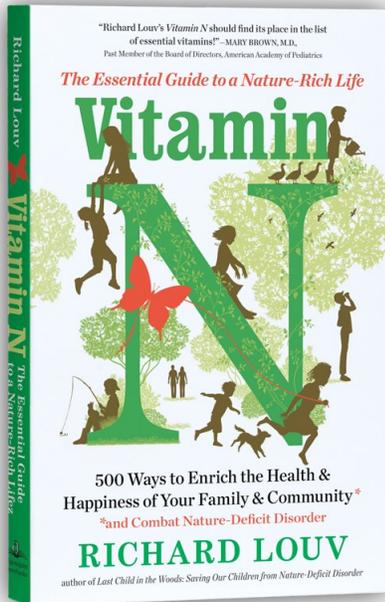
June 10 *and* 11, 2016

Guthrie, OK

The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival is an annual event that includes numerous workshops on storytelling, story swaps, concerts with nationally know tellers, ghost tales, and more!!

Tickets & Info: - www.territorytellers.com

Green Words for All Ages



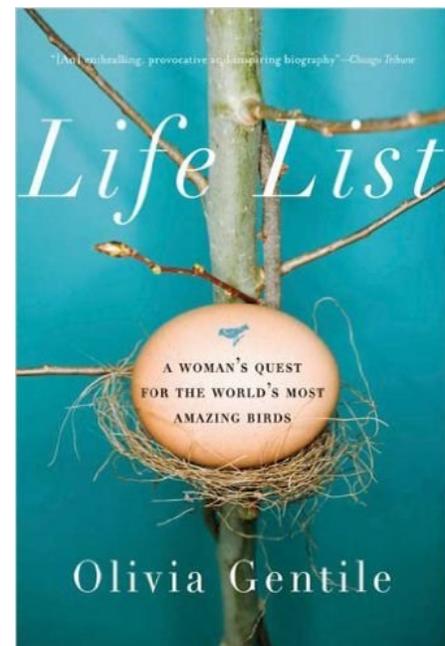
“*Vitamin N* is a one-of-a-kind, comprehensive, and practical guidebook for the whole family and the wider community. Whether you’re in a suburban home, a dense urban setting or the wild countryside, *Vitamin N* offers activities for the whole family to connect with the natural world.”

A discussion arising from this book may be heard on NPR’s Diane Rehm Show on a segment titled “Environmental Outlook: New Reasons to Get Kids Outdoors.” You can stream the interview by clicking this URL: <https://thedianerehmshow.org/>

and type in “Vitamin N.”

This is not a review, but an announcement that the book is now available.

For many serious birders the name Phoebe Snetsinger will be well-known, but this Guinness-book level accomplishment is relatively unfamiliar to the casual bird watcher. A life list can be a hobby or, in this case, a world-class competition. The top contenders travel under field conditions for weeks and months at a time, study when at home, and keep vast records, but the rewards are breath-taking panoramas, dazzling colors, fascinating flights and dances, and diverse cultural experiences. Although this account is less about the birds than the birder, sightings and taxonomic classifications of species from every continent make up for its informational short-comings. *Life List* by Olivia Gentile will take less-competitive birders on a tour of far-off nesting and courting grounds to which they may never go, and will give birders who wish to contend for the top spot, tips and a plan they can follow. Either way, Happy Birding!



Book Review

by Sarah Markham

Be advised: There is a short scene of criminal violence toward the end of book.

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 ...

“Like” 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>



10301 South Sunnyslane 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.

Project WET

(Water Education for Teachers)

<http://projectwet.org/>

http://projectwet.org/where-we-are/host/oklahoma_conservation_commission/

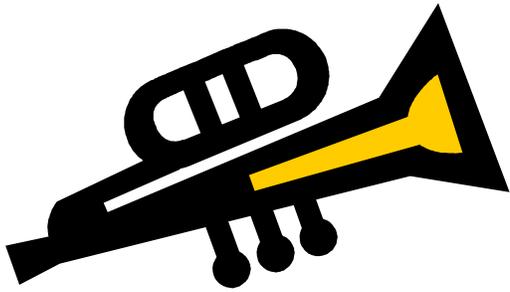
Project WILD

<http://www.projectwild.org/>

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



The Calendar

Most people who remember The EnvironMentor Newsletter know that the pages at the end of the issue were reserved for The Calendar. Being online has some great advantages. When you downloaded your copy of the newsletter you may have noticed the box on the right side of the webpage. This is a convenient listing of the next events from The Calendar. This will always be up-to-date because it happens automatically. For more information on the event just click on it and a window will open up with all the details. If you wish, you can access the rest of the calendar from the there.

To have your event posted to The Calendar, copy and paste the following list into an email, fill in as much information as you wish, and send it to: Environmentor@okcu.edu

Title of your event:

Start Date and Time

End Date and Time

Location

Location Address

Contact Name

Contact Phone

Contact Email

Details in Narrative Form

Location Link

Event Link

Map Link

Please note: We are not able to publish for-profit information.

To go directly to The Calendar click on:

<http://www2.okcu.edu/environmentor>