

# O K L A H O M A C O N S E R V A T I O N C O N V E R S A T I O N

Information for and about Oklahoma's Conservation Districts

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## 2008 OACD State Meeting: "Conservation College"

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) held its 70th Annual State Meeting at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City Feb. 24-26. OACD is an independent organization that promotes natural resource conservation through various activities and functions. The meeting was cosponsored by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

At the Monday morning opening session OACD President welcomed the board members of the newly-formed Kiowa Tribal Conservation District, the first tribal conservation district in Oklahoma. Honorable Gary Lumpkin, Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, led all conservation district board members in a reaffirmation of the Oath of Office. John Reading, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, explained a fundraising drive to refurbish the NACD national headquarters in Washington, D.C. At the Monday luncheon, State Treasurer Scott Meacham gave an overview of the state's fiscal status. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions provided educational programs on flood control, water quality and district management topics.

### Conservation Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission established the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame in 1985. Each year, one or more friends of conservation and/or conservation district directors are inducted in recognition of a positive influence on Oklahoma's conservation programs. This year OACD inducted two friends of conservation into the Hall of Fame.

OACD President Scotty Herriman named Rick Jeans of Tonkawa and Paula Templeton of Wagoner to the Oklahoma Conservation Hall of Fame during the organization's banquet on Feb. 25 .

Herriman named Jeans, Kay County Conservation District, to the Hall of Fame as a conservation district director. In 2007 Jeans completed a five-year term as OCC Area II commissioner and had previously served two one-year terms as OACD president.



OACD President Scotty Herriman (at podium) welcomed members of the newly-formed Kiowa Tribal Conservation District standing behind him, from left are Garrett Tartsah, Ricky Horse, Randall Ware and Lincoln Aitson. Judge Gary Lumpkin (seated) administered a reaffirmation of district directors' Oath of Office at the morning session.



NACD President John Redding (left) with OACD President Scotty Herriman



Rick Jeans

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*"America's good fortune  
can't possibly last  
longer than her  
natural resources."  
- Will Rogers*

Our vision:  
Responsible care for Oklahoma's  
natural resources.

Our mission:  
To conserve, protect and restore  
Oklahoma's natural resources,  
working in collaboration with the  
conservation districts and other  
partners, on behalf of the citizens of  
Oklahoma.

[www.conservation.ok.gov](http://www.conservation.ok.gov)

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## Conservation Calendar

For more events and information, click on "Calendar" at [www.conservation.ok.gov](http://www.conservation.ok.gov)

**Envirothon - Oklahoma**, April 7-9, Camp Y'Shua, Meers

**Clean Lakes & Watersheds Conf.**, April 9-11, Tahlequah

**Grand Lake Nutrient Management Conf.**, April 17, Grove

**Grand Lake Earth Day Celebration**, April 19, Grove

**EarthFest**, April 19, Tulsa Zoo, Tulsa

**ScienceFest**, April 24, Oklahoma City

**Forestry on the Grow**, April 30-May 2, Western Hills Lodge, Wagoner

**Oklahoma Conservation Commission Meeting**, May 5, Agriculture Bldg., Oklahoma City

**OCC Full Staff Meeting**, May 5, Nat'l Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City

**National Land & Range Judging Contest**, May 5-7, Oklahoma City

**Alternative Fuels & Vehicles Conf.**, May 11-14, Las Vegas, Nev.

**Memorial Day Holiday**, May 26

**Oklahoma Conservation Commission Meeting**, June 2, Agriculture Bldg., Oklahoma City

**Independence Day Holiday**, July 4

**Kim Shaw**, OCC/WQ education coordinator, was recognized at the January Commission meeting for five years of service to OCC and the state of Oklahoma.

**Mark Harrison**, OCC information officer, was recognized at the March Commission meeting for being named Employee of the Quarter at the February full staff meeting.

## In our thoughts...

Chuck Pyka, Murray CCD watershed aide, lost his father Feb. 18.

## Congratulations!

Debi Carnott, Central North Canadian River CD, has a new granddaughter — Hannah Carnott, born Feb. 12.

Templeton, named to the Hall of Fame as a "Friend of Conservation," served for two consecutive one-year terms as president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees. She is at secretary at Wagoner County CD. Herriman cited Templeton for leading the effort to inform state legislators about the work done by district employees and helping improve employee benefits.

### OACD President's Award

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts has presented its "President's Award" since 1983 to one or more individuals or an organization that has shown outstanding support of conservation efforts in Oklahoma or the nation. OACD President Scotty Herriman presented the President's Award for 2008 to three legislators and a broadcast journalist.

Herriman honored state Sens. Randy Bass and David Myers and Rep. Dale DeWitt for championing conservation program funding at the Capitol in 2007.

Herriman also presented Rob McClendon, broadcast journalist and host of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority's Oklahoma Horizon program, with a President's Award for his longtime coverage of conservation, agriculture and rural life stories.

### Employee Recognition

Pat Fentress, secretary for the Sequoyah County Conservation District, received the Adeline Laird Award. The award was established in memory of Adeline Laird, finance officer at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission from October 1974 until her death in 1984. The award is presented to recognize district secretaries or programs coordinators who typify Laird's hard work, dedication, enthusiasm and caring attitude.

Reva Maddox, secretary for the East Woods County Conservation District, received the Outstanding Conservation District Employee Award from the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees.

### Former Gov. Nigh's "Commencement Address"

Former Gov. George Nigh gave the "commencement address" at the luncheon that closed the meeting on Feb. 26. His personal and political recollections and anecdotes were warmly received and rewarded with several standing ovations.

OCC Area V Commissioner Virginia Kidd (left) with former Gov. George Nigh.



Paula Templeton



(From left) Sen. David Myers, Herriman and Rep. Dale DeWitt.



Rob McClendon (left) received a President's Award.



Pat Fentress, Sequoyah CCD secretary (left), accepting the Adeline Laird Award from Mike Thralls, OCC executive director.



OACDE President Paula Templeton (left) presenting the Outstanding Employee Award to Reva Maddox, East Woods CCD secretary.

# GIS Day at the Capitol 2008

## 14th Annual Event Deemed Successful

Mike Sharp, acting state GIS coordinator, called the 14th annual GIS Day at the Capitol a success. “We had 30 agency exhibitors and 125 registered participants,” Sharp said. Hundreds of visitors kept the exhibitors in the fourth floor Capitol rotunda busy from the event’s opening at 9:00 a.m. to closing at 3:00 p.m. on March 12. “I think we had the biggest turnout yet,” Sharp said.

GIS Day at the Capitol provides an opportunity for public sector agencies and organizations to showcase uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) throughout the state of Oklahoma. Sharp said each year visitors are asking more relevant questions and displaying higher awareness of using geographic information systems. “If you have a GPS system in your vehicle, on your cell phone or have created a map on a computer program to get somewhere, you have already used a Geographic Information System (GIS) and may not have even known it,” Sharp said.

“GIS integrates computer technologies, people, and detailed information about location that lets you visualize relationships, patterns, and trends in maps for better decisions. GIS can help you answer questions and solve problems by looking at your data in a way that is quickly understood and easily shared. GIS is any system for capturing, storing, analyzing and managing data and associated attributes that are spatially referenced to Earth,” Sharp said.

“Most people find learning easier if it involves visual items. GIS Day provides a great opportunity to see first hand the incredible ways these technological advances are impacting the world every day,” Sharp said.

### Highlights

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission’s Water Quality Division showcased its Fort Cobb Watershed Project to demonstrate use of GIS technology to target “hotspots” of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution within priority watersheds, based on factors such as soil types, climate, land use, topography, and stream data.

The Oklahoma County Assessor’s Office showcased its online GIS mapping site incorporating its own aerial photographs with those from Google Earth and Virtual Earth.

The Cherokee Nation GeoData Center and Cherokee Nation Community Services have been working together to map Cherokee Indian Communities to provide more detailed information on income, education and health among Cherokee citizens than is available through Census reports.

Midwest City highlighted its use of GIS to aid in making important decisions related to municipal planning and customer service, including FEMA floodplain analysis and land development suitability analysis.

Oklahoma City Community College promoted a new GIS Emphasis and GIS Certificate in the Computer-Aided Technology Program.

### Other Exhibitors

- The McClain County 4-H Geoclovers
- Oklahoma State Department of Health
- The Chickasaw Nation Department of GeoSpatial Information
- The City of Ardmore
- Carter County
- Oklahoma Corporation Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- The Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative
- The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- Indian Nation Council of Governments (INCOG)
- Oklahoma One-Call System, Inc. (Call Okie)
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Geological Survey
- The Oklahoma Department of Libraries



The McClain County Geoclovers presented information at GIS Day at the Capitol. Geoclovers are a 4-H geospatial project youth club whose members (average age 14) work as a team using GIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to assist the citizens of McClain County. The group has created a recreational land use map of the Purcell Lake and are currently working with county and city emergency management personnel to map rural fire hydrants and city infrastructure for the county’s E-911 system.

# Muskogee County Conservation District

## Receives Land Donation

In March Bonnie Geer of Tulsa donated 152 acres of land near Taft to the Muskogee County Conservation District to be used as a nature, wildlife and bird sanctuary. Geer said that it had always been a dream of her late husband Richard to turn the land into a nature habitat. Muskogee County CD will operate and maintain the site, to be named "The Bonnie and Richard Geer Nature Sanctuary."

Plans include reestablishment of native grasses and flowers including tallgrass prairie plants and native trees as well as food and habitat sources for birds and wildlife. Establishment of a wetlands area may also be possible.

The site is west of Muskogee at the intersection of Highways 62 and 162. The area will be made available to area schools and nature/conservation organizations for outdoor classrooms and other conservation and nature-related activities.

"We express our thanks and appreciation to Ms. Geer for this contribution that will preserve a small piece of natural history for future generations," said Andy Qualls, Muskogee County CD equipment manager. He invites anyone with a class or group interested in using the facility for nature/natural resource/conservation educational purposes or who would like to be involved in the restoration of the area to contact the Muskogee County CD, (918) 687-3478.

"We are very excited at the potential that this site holds for Muskogee County and the possible educational uses and enjoyment presented by this donation."



In March Bonnie Geer presented the deed for 152 acres near Taft to the Muskogee County CD for a nature sanctuary. (From left) Ken Silver, MCCD director; Bonnie Geer, land donor; Andy Qualls, MCCD equipment manager; Butch Garner, MCCD director, Trish Kloeckler, MCCD secretary.

### Mailing Tab Area

#### WORKSHOPS & TRUNKS

Project WET Workshops  
Karla Beatty, 405.521.2384

•  
Project Learning Tree  
Workshops or Trunks  
Christina Stallings, 405.521-3864

•  
Project WILD Workshops or Trunks  
Lisa Anderson, 405.521-6704

#### Oklahoma Conservation Conversation

Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 160  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
73105-4201  
405.521.2384, FAX: 405.521.6686  
<http://www.conservation.ok.gov>

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