



Tree Tribute Newsletter



Tree Tribute Program: The Inaugural Year

Over the years, many have offered to plant a tree in memory or honor of someone without a full understanding of young tree care and the risk that comes with assigning a loved ones name directly to a tree. Sadly, in the past we've lost donor trees to events that are not predictable at the time of planting, such as extreme weather events and change in campus facility growth. This Tree Tribute funding method allows for donors to contribute to the overall Campus forest health, while building a Campus forest legacy for generations to come, in a way that honors whoever they chose, without placing such emphasis on any singular tree.

This fund allows Landscape Services to better monitor and treat the health of our established campus forest. It also allows us to continue to plant new trees, thereby diversifying and growing the health of our campus forest. Through careful calculation, we've determined that it takes \$1,800 to maintain and fully establish one tree through it's first year. From procurement/purchasing, to labor for planting, to continued supplies and maintenance (watering, mulch, possible chemical treatments, staking, etc.)



The Tree Tribute Program \$1,800 Donors are recognized at the Cowboy Family Tree Garden and Statue on the east side of Theta Pond. Gifts of any amount are appreciated and recognized in our yearly news letter. *Pictured Above Right: Cowboy Family Tree Retro OSU Art Piece. Artist: Dale Rogers, MA.*



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Campus Trees at a Glance

- Number of Trees: 3,998
- Number of Species: 131
- Structural Value: \$9.81 million
- Percent Canopy Cover: 5.18
- Trees Planted: 146
- Trees Removed: 91
- Trees Pruned: 363
- Oxygen Production: 142.7 tons/yr
- Carbon Storage: 1.396 thousand tons (\$238 thousand)
- Carbon Sequestration: 53.5 tons (\$9.12 thousand/yr)
- Avoided Run off: 82.89 cubic ft/yr (\$5.54 thousand/yr)



Most Populus Species

	% Population
Crape Myrtle spp.	10.5
Shumard Oak	8.5
Bald Cypress spp.	7.0
Holly spp.	5.8
Chinese Pistache	5.1
Bur Oak	4.5
Lacebark Elm	4.2
Eastern Red Cedar	4.2
Southern Magnolia	3.7
Pin Oak	1.9

Special points of interest

- Get Campus Tree Inventory Updates
- Meet Members of Your Tree Leadership Board
- Missed Arbor Day 2021? You're in Luck!
- Learn How Students Interact With Our Campus Forest



2020-2021 Winter Storm Recovery

Pictured left : Three Bald Cypress, east side of Central Plant. Bent over as a result of the October 2020 Ice Storm.

Oklahoma experienced two historical winter weather events in the 2020-2021 academic year. The October 26-27, 2020 Ice Storm which came at a time when leaves and fruit were still on trees, and the February 2021 Freeze when maximum temperatures stayed at or below freezing for 11 consecutive days, dipping as low as -17 F. Either of these events alone would have been devastating to the landscape, to experience both within several months from each other was unprecedented. As a direct result of these events campus lost 86 trees, totaling over \$212,000 in structural value. During the ice storm response, over 1000 trees needed corrective pruning. It took Landscape Services and two contracted tree care services nearly 9 months to tend to all of the necessary work. About 20 additional trees were severely bent and staked upright for a year. Regarding the freeze, Sawtooth Oaks, Live Oaks, Water Oaks, some elms, and hollies were severely and disproportionately impacted. The campus forest continues to feel the consequences of these weather events and Landscape Services remains vigilant in monitoring the campus forest for additional stressors and residual effects from the storms. If you'd like to help with recovery efforts, please see page 6 of this newsletter. For more information on how to help your trees recover from storms, read these OSU extension fact sheets: Id: EPP-7323 Managing Storm-Damaged Trees. Id: HLA-6409, Pruning Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, and Vines. www.extension.okstate.edu

"The 2020-2021 weather events took a great toll on our campus forest. But because of the incredible recovery efforts our team made, you can hardly tell it now by looking at the landscape. Still, our team continues to monitor the forest closely for stressors and residual effects from last years weather."
-Caitlin Gipson, University Arborist

Interactive Map Updates

Although trees are added and removed from the map regularly to reflect the current campus forest status, it's been nearly 10 years since data like tree height, dbh, and other necessary measurements have been collected for our forest. Having accurate tree data is important when calculating things like environmental impacts and structural value of our campus forest. Thankfully, we found just the guy for the job! Samuel Harris is a Junior GIS major who has a special interest in forestry and wants to apply his degree to a career in Forestry or Conservation. He's been a valuable member of our Landscape Services team since the summer, applying his GIS knowledge to updating our Interactive Campus Map and learn other landscape and forestry related tasks. Thank you Samuel!

Campus Tree Report, 2021

146 trees planted; representing **31 species** across **18 genera**, finding homes at **24 sites**.

Tree Removal Break Down: 91 Total, 29- February Freeze, 25- Construction, 14- Ice Storm, 11- Crape Myrtles to Crape Myrtle Bark Scale, 7- Fungal Disease, 4- Natural Decline, 1- Wind Event.

Goals: As mentioned in the article to the left, one goal we have for the 2022 year is to complete updates on our campus tree map and tree data base. We intend to reach this goal by the end of the spring semester, 2022.

We will also work towards increasing the Universities overall tree canopy which was reduced some due to the two aforementioned winter storms. We'll achieve this goal by planting more trees and maintaining the health of our existing canopy. In 2018 our canopy covered an estimated 45.6 acers. Post 2020-2021 storms, our canopy cover is now estimated at 45.12 acres. Whatever canopy growth occurred between the 2018 and 2020 seasons was lost to the winter storms and we intend to recover that lost growth in the coming years. This is an ever evolving and continual goal.

We will also continue to offer students and the community opportunities to learn about our campus forest via Service Learning Projects, tree plantings, virtual tree tours and use of the updated Interactive Campus Map Tree Layer (<https://fm-gis-portal.okstate.edu/portal/apps/interactivemap/>), and the possibility of more in-person events as campus continues to open up.

A complete list of goals and tree care standards can be found on our website:

https://fm.okstate.edu/about-us/landscape/osu_tree_care_standards.html

Challenges: One challenge we continue to face is tree damage caused by overpopulation of squirrels. Campus offers a perfect environment for squirrels to thrive in, and their presence is harming and even killing some trees. They especially like to chew on the bark of newly planted maples, but nearly any tree is at risk. There is also a rumor circulating in the student population that OSU uses student fees and tuition funds to feed the squirrels. This is simply not true.



Above: One special feature this Arbor Day was gifting authentic Theta Pond Bald Cypress seedlings to select guests as a thank you for their contributions to our campus forest.

Arbor Day 2021

Arbor Day 2021 was celebrated on March 24th from the Cowboy Family Tree Garden and Statue at the east side of Theta Pond. It was also cast via live stream. Many were in attendance: The then President, First Cowgirl, and First Dog- Burns, Ann, and Scruff Hargis. The first two donors to the Tree Tribute funding program, Dr. Carl Whitcomb and John Houck. Several members of our Tree Leadership Board, including: Jana Philips, Dr. Tom Hennessey, David Hillock, Sydney Earley, and Dr. Tom Kuzmic. Ron Tarbutton, our Chief Facilities Officer was present, along with Vicky Berry our Director of the Museum of Art. Several students and members of the Facilities Management team were in attendance as well.

The ceremony began with a welcome from OSU's University Arborist, Caitlin Gipson. Former President and First Cowgirl Burns and Ann Hargis shared words of excitement in gathering and praise to the Facilities Management crew who work so hard to keep campus looking beautiful. Vicky Berry also spoke in detail about the art piece's selection and aesthetic. Dr. Tom Kuzmic recognized that OSU's Forestry Department is celebrating its 75th year, then generously handed out commemorative patches and pins. The first two donors to the Tree Tribute funding program, John Houck and Dr. Carl Whitcomb were recognized for their contributions to our urban campus forest. Scattered throughout the celebration, several attendees were presented with authentic Theta Pond Bald Cypress seedlings as a thank you to those who have advocated for and continue to benefit our campus urban forest. Recipients included: The Hargis's, Vicky Berry, Donors, Tree Leadership Board Members, and others. Lastly and very poignantly, Sidney Early our Society of American Foresters Chapter President, spoke at the tree planting site. She educated the crowd on how to dig a proper tree-planting hole and described the 2021 Arbor Day tree selected. *"It's a Coral Bark Maple, Acer palmatum, 'sango-kaku'. Sango-kaku translates to 'vase like', describing the canopy shape. It displays visual interest year round, as the leaves turn a vibrant shade of yellow in the fall and the coral colored bark is showy in the winter. This tree was selected for this site because it is tolerant to shade and for its visual interest. You can find it a few yards to the north of the Cowboy Family Tree Garden and Statue."* - Sidney Earley

A broadcast of the event can be found in the OState.Tv archives at:

https://ostate.tv/media/REBROADCASTA++Arbor+Day+Tree+Tribute+Program/1_kh5ljgst/87553051

Tree Campus Higher Education

Tree Campus Higher Education, formerly known as Tree Campus USA, is an award presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to campus's that demonstrate that they meet five criteria highlighting their devotion to a healthy campus forest and community/education outreach.

The five criteria include: Having an active Campus Tree Advisory Committee, creating and following a Campus Tree Care Plan, having a campus tree program with dedicated annual expenditures, observing Arbor Day, and facilitating a Service Learning Project.

Applying for this award requires intense year-round record keeping and documentation of field related tree activities, tree expenditures, volunteer hours and opportunities, and time spent in the advisory committee (our Tree Leadership Board).

OSU Stillwater has earned this award every year since 2011. A plaque displaying all earned years can be found hanging in the Student Union and we proudly fly the Tree Campus Higher Education flag in our Cowboy Family Tree Garden at Theta Pond.

OSU will continue to strive for excellence and apply to earn this year in 2022 and beyond.



An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Tree Leadership Board Members 2020-2021

Dr. Tom Kuzmic: Prof. NREM

Dr. Tom Hennessey: Prof. Emeritus NREM

Dr. Mike Schnelle: Prof. and Extension, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Craig Spencer: Dir. Energy Services
Facilities Management

Jana Phillips: University Architect, Long Range
Facilities Planning

David Hillock: Consumer Horticulture Extension,
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Keith Reed: OSU Extension
Horticulture Specialist

Steve Dobbs: Dir., Landscape Services
Facilities Management

John Lee: Asst. Manager, Landscape Services
Facilities Management

Caitlin Gipson: OSU Univ. Arborist
Landscape Services

Sydney Earley: Pres. OSU SAF Chapter

Kim Hagen: Pres. OSU Hort. Club

Dr. Kuzmic is Retiring

After 42 years of service to OSU, its Forestry and related programs, Dr. Tom Kuzmic is retiring.

In his time at OSU, Dr. Kuzmic has been a positive influence to countless students. In addition to his service in the classroom, since 1999 he has led study abroad programs to destinations such as Honduras, Ecuador, Galapagos, and Peru.

Reflecting on such trips, Kuzmic says: *"My objective through the years has been to motivate students to gain a broader understanding and appreciation of life and living in our world beyond our familiar home communities and borders. My focus has been for students to understand land and natural resources, and what makes them "tick" ecologically and geographically, and to gain a sense of understanding how people derive uses, values, goods and services from the land in unique ways."*

Dr. Kuzmic has served on our Tree Leadership Board since it's beginning in 2011. Thank you for your years of dedication and service and congratulations on your retirement, Dr. Kuzmic!



"We are never finished products. We can and should always strive to be more than we currently are. There is always something new to experience and learn about our world and our world's people. We ultimately may not be able to achieve each and everything that we imagine and hope for, but we surely should strive to do the best that we can in all that we aspire toward and live life to the fullest." - Dr. Kuzmic



Sydney Earley

Society of American Foresters Chapter President and Tree Leadership Board Member

Sydney is a Senior Forestry major from Bartlesville, Ok and served on our Campus Tree Leadership Board in 2020-2021. Pictured Left is Sydney speaking at the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration.

Why chose Forestry? *I chose forestry because I have always been drawn to the outdoors. I knew I wanted a career outside and one that would make an impact on a large scale, so forestry it was!*

What's your dream job in Forestry? *My dream job as a forester is to become a District Ranger on a National Forest.*

What have you enjoyed most about being the SAF President? *My job as president of SAF is to lead foresters towards their goals. My favorite thing about being president is watching my peers make connections that get them into the right forestry career. It is incredible to watch it all come together for everyone.*



Kim Hagen

Horticulture Club President and Tree Leadership Board Member

Kim is a senior Horticulture major from Oklahoma City, Ok and served on our Campus Tree Leadership Board in 2020-2021. Kim is pictured left.

She grew up with her sisters outdoors, climbing trees, and enjoyed time in Ontario Canada working on her beloved aunt's strawberry farm. It was then she realized that plants could be a business! Kim continued to grow her interest in plants and became a HORT major after taking a course with Dr. Dunn at the Teaching Greenhouse and joining in on HORT Club meetings.

Kim: *"I met people that I truly felt at home with, and activities I enjoyed! I started to feed the voracious hunger in me to understand this planet we live on and what makes it all possible. I've been working and studying in Horticulture ever since!"* Kim wants to own her own horticulture business and enjoyed being on the Tree Leadership Board because it gave her opportunity to volunteer and plant trees on campus that *"will stand the test of time!"*

New Remembrance Garden, Knoblock Corner

Knoblock corner can be found at the intersection of University and Knoblock Streets. Nestled between the historical OSU Fire Station and Hideaway Pizza, expect to see some big changes at this familiar place! Landscape Architect, Nick Ouellette, and team have been hard at work designing a Remembrance Garden and construction has already started. The project should be done by the spring, complete with a new water feature, plentiful seating, and several new trees. The original concept for this project came directly from the student body. Students wanted a place to quietly reflect on loved ones lost while relaxing in one of Campus's forested locations. Annual ceremonies will be held here in remembrance of members lost from the Cowboy Family. We will be removing four trees, three of which are in serious states of decline, and will plant back fourteen new trees. Seven 'Nellie R. Stevens' Hollies will be planted at the corner, three over story, and four understory trees will be planted dispersed between the existing mature canopy trees. Specific tree selections will be made soon with special consideration to species diversity. The existing mature forest on Knoblock Corner is comprised mostly of Bur Oak, White Oak, Chinese Pistache, and Lacebark Elm. Twelve aforementioned existing trees are being protected during construction efforts. Tree projection fencing was installed to protect the trees from physical injury and the root zone from compaction. Strategic air-spading and root pruning was also completed in effort to lessen construction impact on the existing trees root systems.



"It was amazing to feel so connected to nature through this project. We made a space for campus to clean the air and look beautiful while doing it."

- Gabby Barber, Junior Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Service Learning Project

On October 14, 2021, 20 student volunteers came to plant a tree in the tranquil Orange Grove. This event was a special service-learning project led by Caitlin Gipson, University Arborist. The project fulfills the last of five standards OSU must meet to maintain our Tree Campus Higher Education recognition. The tree planted through this project replaced a Frontier Elm that was lost to the devastating 2020 ice storm. The new tree is a "Fall Fiesta" Sugar Maple. It will fit in perfectly at OSU, for it is known for displaying vibrant orange leaves during the fall.

Most of the volunteers came from student organizations like the Society of American Foresters and the Horticulture Club. Regardless of where the students came from, the benefits of this planting are universal. Educating students on what trees need and how to help them affects their perception of nature and their role in protecting it. It also gives them pride to know they contributed to a part of OSU's infamous landscape. Landscape Services is grateful for the help we received during this project, and we are excited to see what the students do next!

-Gabby Barber
Junior, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology



Oklahoma State University

Facilities Management

Landscape Services

Facilities Management Landscape Services Department is responsible for the overall design, installation, and maintenance of 870 plus acres. We serve the University by providing skilled landscape services to help the OSU community achieve educational success. By doing this, we help our organization develop a dynamic outdoor learning environment through campus beautification.

How to Donate

Please visit <https://osugiving.com/your-passion/campus-tributes>

Under Areas of Impact, select the *Campus Tree Planting and Maintenance Fund 20-98240*

From here you may donate any amount.

For a donation of \$1,800 or more, a metal plate in the shape of bark will be placed on the tree statues adjacent to the Cowboy Family Tree art piece located at Theta Pond. See statue below.

To fill out information for the plaque, scroll down to the bottom of the same web page listed above and select "Download our Campus Tributes order form here".

Please direct any donation questions to :

Courtney Wolf MacNelly, Assistant Director of Development for University Programs
cmacnelly@osugiving.com | phone: 405-332-1469

Thanks to Our First Donors, so far we've raised: \$5,320.00

≥\$1,800 Donors:

John Houck in Memory of Linda Jameson

John Houck, again in his own honor

Carl and Lajeane Whitcomb Lacey Inc.

Russell Gale in Memory of Jim and Peggy Gale

Anonymous Donor

Other Donors:

Sarah Sloan

D. Thuy-Trang Nguyen and Mr. Raphael T. Nguyen



Oklahoma State University

Facilities Management

Landscape Services

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Landscape Services



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