



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life

## Oklahoma Chapter

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### Links:

The international web site.  
[www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)  
The Oklahoma web site.  
[www.okswcs.org](http://www.okswcs.org)  
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### Committee Chairpersons:

Program, Josh Ketch  
Membership, Stacy Hansen  
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Scholarship, Josh Ketch  
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Audit, Corey Moffet  
Nominating/Elections, Jean Steiner  
Fund Raising, Melanie Oliver  
Website, Joe Freeland  
Newsletter, Larry Wright

**Vision:** A multidisciplinary Society that advocates the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water and related natural resources in Oklahoma and beyond.

**Mission:** To promote through education and example, an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

### Welcome New Members:

## Sierra Leone Update

By Liberty Galvin

SWCS student member at OSU

Today (9/17/13) is the day I leave for Sierra Leone! I wanted to formally thank all of you for helping me reach my goal to help others attain clean water through education and service. I will be returning in April of next year and hope to have many great stories, pictures, and a video or two. I could not have done this without the help of my friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances.

This is a link to our blog which we will update when internet is available:<http://scottandlibbysierraleone.wordpress.com/> You can visit the site and opt for e-mail alerts when we make a post, that way you do not have to check the website frequently.

My boyfriend, Scott Larson, and I will be traveling together. He will be teaching mathematics at Njala University while I will be continuing my water quality research in the nearby villages. If you would like to read about my previous history in Sierra Leone, or are curious about my current goals, please visit my Indiegogo website: [igg.me/at/SLWaterislife](http://igg.me/at/SLWaterislife)

Some of you have the ability and desire to make international calls! If you would like to call me via skype (please remember I'm 5 hours ahead!) This is the number at which you can reach me: (232) 785-036-85. Finally, Gondwana Imports LLC., a business I will soon be the owner of, helps other students attain their international studies goals and is one avenue which helped fund part of my trip. If you would like to help others going to Sierra Leone, doing projects related to food, water, energy and education, please consider buying some beautiful international jewelry, art, clothing, etc. from our business (fair trade items make great Christmas gifts!!!): [Etsy.com/shop/GondwanaImportsLLC](http://Etsy.com/shop/GondwanaImportsLLC)

## Backyard Conservation

By Rachel Bradley

Wildlife Diversity Information Specialist Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation Habitat is key to wildlife conservation and viewing opportunities. Autumn has officially begun, so it's time to start transitioning your landscape to benefit wildlife during the cooler months and beyond.

White oak is a tall tree that provides benefits to wildlife.

"Now is a great time to plant trees, shrubs

and vines that provide winter berries for birds to eat," said Melynda Hickman, wildlife diversity biologist and Wildscape Certification Program coordinator. "Planting now will establish sound roots, so when the plants leaf out in the spring, the energy stored will allow the plants to grow out well. They will need to be watered pretty well for the first two to three years and then they will be fairly low maintenance." The benefit to providing winter foods through trees, shrubs and vines is that they perform double duty.

"If planted to create a vertical layering effect, the plantings can provide important shelter and cover for the birds in addition to providing food," said Hickman.

Each January, the Wildlife Diversity Program enlists citizens across the state to participate in the Winter Bird Feeder Survey. Survey participants are asked to provide information about their backyards and neighborhoods. Some descriptive information requested is the amount of evergreen cover and the amount of winter food plants provided in the area where feeders are located. Sixty-one percent of participants in 2013 described the area surrounding their feeders as having moderate to abundant winter food plants.



Plant American beautyberry in the fall to provide food for birds during the winter months..

"This information serves to help us better understand what habitat elements, in conjunction with the backyard feeding stations, attract the widest variety of winter birds," Hickman said. "Without a doubt, water availability is also essential to attracting such birds as the eastern bluebird, northern mockingbird, American robin and cedar waxwing. This is often reflected in survey results."

## The Cedar Summit

Please save the date to attend the annual



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Cedar Summit hosted by the Aromatic Cedar Association on Saturday October 12, 2013 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The summit will be held at the Enid Convention Hall, 301 S. Independence, Enid, OK 73701.

Topics for the Summit will include Innovations in Harvesting, Woody Biomass Storage, and Conversion Alternatives.

Luncheon Speaker is Secretary Jim Reese, Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Cost to attend is \$25 for Aromatic Cedar Association Members, and \$30 for Non-Members \$30. Lunch is included.

For more information or to register contact Debbie Hand at the Aromatic Cedar Association, [hand@growenid.com](mailto:hand@growenid.com) or 580-233-4232 .

## 2014 No-Till Oklahoma date change

The 2014 No-Till Oklahoma conference will occur on March 11 - 12 at the NCED in Norman Oklahoma (same venue as previous years). Mark your calendars.

## Kiosk on the Great Plains Trail



The Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance is installing interpretive kiosk along the Great Plains Trails of Oklahoma. This photo is a recent installation of a kiosk in Frederick, OK on the Tillman County Courthouse lawn facing highway 183. The kiosk is built to provide habitat for the Chimney Swift which are almost totally dependent on man-made structures for their nesting. Many of the old hollow trees and chimneys have been destroyed that the Chimney Swift utilized for

nesting. These kiosk will have information added on all four sides of the structure to detail the Great Plains Trail, birding opportunities, and local outdoor recreation venues.

The increasing number of individuals looking for opportunities to explore the great outdoors will be able to find a connection with the availability of the Great Plains Trails maps and the kiosks to guide the way. If you are interested in becoming a destination or know someone that is an application is available online at <http://www.owpha.org/> . If you can assist in locating a kiosk along the Great Plains Trail contact Larry Wright at [larry.wright57@gmail.com](mailto:larry.wright57@gmail.com).

The Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance (OWPHA) was formed to provide enhanced coordination, cooperation and communication to conserve the short and mixed grass prairie's diverse habitat and unique wildlife which is found in Western Oklahoma. The OWPHA distributes information to assist landowners, informs the region's communities and businesses, and serves as a conduit for wildlife and prairie heritage programming opportunities for the area.

The main objective of OWPHA is to bridge the gap between programs and projects covering 30 counties of Western Oklahoma.

## Chapter Leader Training

Webinars [Click here to watch](#)