



CURRENTS of CHANGE

Dear Friends:

The last several years have been extremely dry, and although it appears we are on the cusp of the drought's very timely end, only time will tell. I always struggle to find a silver lining to challenges like this one, and this time is no different. I can only hope that it makes all of us recognize the importance of what a precious resource water is – without which no living thing can survive, including us – and the need to conserve it.

Our efforts to approach conservation in a pragmatic, collaborative way have served us well for more than two decades. It is for that very reason we are applying this philosophy to our stream work across the state through our newly formed freshwater program. We now have stream monitoring plans for all of our preserves and a myriad of specialized scientific equipment, including a sampling boat, flow meters, and data loggers. And most importantly, monitoring has begun. The water quality and water quantity data we collect across the state will help us determine the health of our streams and the ways by which we can find those classic solutions that benefit both nature and people. Read more about this exciting new program in this issue.

Thank you so much for supporting our work! Without you we cannot develop creative, efficient solutions that make The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma the organization it is. It's conservation with people in mind.

Sincerely,

Mike Fuhr State Director

With the

the year in CONSERVATION



Jeremy Tubbs uses a drip torch to start the fire line for a prescribed burn in March at the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve.

BURN BABY BURN

Fire is an essential force that has shaped ecosystems around the globe, but in many places today, the role of fire is severely out of balance. The Nature Conservancy works to maintain fire's role where it can benefit people and nature.

During FY2012-13, the Conservancy used prescribed fire on a total of 11,490 acres in Oklahoma. This was an especially good year for the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve in the foothills of the Ozarks where 4,563 of those acres burned. This year's prescribed fire season ranked as the second largest on the preserve since its establishment in 2000.

BREAKING GROUND

Fire trucks, ATV's, chainsaws, hand tools, trailers, a welder... you name it: land management requires a wide array of equipment! Until recently, the equipment at Pontotoc Ridge Preserve had been exposed to the elements in a small three-sided shed or stored outdoors.

In February, we completed construction of a new Stewardship Building that will protect our equipment and promote good maintenance and safety practices. This building is the first phase of new infrastructure for the preserve. We thank Chris Ramseyer and Mack Caldwell for their pro bono engineering and architectural services, as well as Boldt Company for donating the use of a construction trailer. Funding for this critical piece of infrastructure was provided by Kirkpatrick Foundation, Sarkeys Foundation and Union Pacific Foundation.

Construction of a regional headquarters for our work in southern Oklahoma began at Pontotoc Ridge Preserve in July. This 40' x 60' metal building will be located on the east side of the Stewardship Building and will overlook one of the preserve's tallgrass prairie meadows. This building will be completed by March of 2014 and will house offices for TNC staff and our statewide freshwater laboratory.

CONSERVING OKLAHOMA'S LAST GREAT PLACES



Dwight Christian, known as the "Bison Whisperer" spends quality time with the bison at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

COUNTING BISON ON THE PRAIRIE

After six long days from sunup to sundown, the 19th Annual Bison Roundup at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve concluded last November with a total count of 2,747 bison, 674 of which were calves. The calving rate for FY 2012-13 was 72.9% which was just above the 19-year average of 71%.

The largest calf weighed 445 lbs. while the smallest calf weighed 85 lbs. The largest bison that came across the scales at this year's roundup was a 1,770 lb. bull. A total of 620 bison from this year's roundup were sold. Next year will be an exciting year as we celebrate 20 years of bison on the prairie!

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

In four to five years, we will enjoy the fruits of staff labor from recent prairie restoration efforts at the J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve near Tahlequah. In March, staff planted over 80 lbs of hand-collected native wildflower and forb seeds on approximately 10 acres that was once a bermuda and fescue cattle pasture for grazing.

"Since our restorations efforts began in 2000, we have restored 1,085 acres of native tallgrass prairie and savanna habitats on the preserve. With this

recent restoration effort, it took us a year to collect the seeds and only one day to plant them," Preserve Director Jeremy Tubbs said. "Now we let Mother Nature take over and wait for the seeds to germinate and grow."

RESTORING THE BLUE

While the land continues to rest at Oklahoma's newest preserve, great strides have been made for restoration planning, surveys and research at the Oka' Yanahli Preserve which is along one mile of the Blue River in south-central Oklahoma. Within the last year, 288 greenhouse-grown seaside alder 'saplings' were planted on islands as part of a research project with the University of Oklahoma; the Oklahoma Biological Survey began a multi-year plant inventory; and 25 fish species, 51 butterfly species, 113 moth species and 122 bird species have been documented on the preserve by experts from across the state.

We've learned that much of this land 'wants' to be a wetland, with several streams flowing through it. The soil and water have been resting from intensive grazing while we've tried to begin understanding the unique hydrology — and the dramatic hydrologic alterations of the 20th Century — of this fascinating place!

making a DIFFERENCE

"It's volunteers and projects like these that continue the legacy and pride of Oklahoma."

~ Mike Fuhr, State Director









PONTOTOC PRIDE

Twenty-five volunteers from all over the state joined together to clean up litter, remove invasive plants, clean up fence lines, and tear down fencing at the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve in February. The day started out chilly, but everyone's go get 'em attitude and great senses of humor warmed us up quickly!

BACK IN TIME IN 700 HOURS

The 1920 historic bunkhouse at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County received a makeover when the Jubilee Quilters' Guild of Bartlesville donated nine bed quilts reflecting the designs of the early 1900's. In October, 28 guild members volunteered over 700 hours, 60+ yards of fabric, and 500 miles driven on the project!

VEOLIA SAVES THE DAY

In January, Veolia Water employees from Oklahoma City swooped down and devoted an entire work day to helping Mother Nature at the Oka' Yanahli Preserve along one-mile of the Blue River. The group helped free the land by removing several hundred feet of old barbed wire fencing on the preserve!

"It's always rewarding to volunteer - to put other interests ahead of your own.

But it is especially rewarding to me when the work done will be

for the benefit of many generations to come."

~ Bill Roach, Veolia Water Area Manager

Clockwise from top left: Lerlene Nevaril in the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Historic Bunkhouse; Tom Alexander and David Gainey haul barbed wire at the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve; Jennifer Morris, Linzi Thompson, George Pierson and Louise Newell collect litter at the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve; Pat Corbett, Deoan Henderson, Brad Brandon, Rick Opat, Cody Meyers, Ronnie Childress, Randy Hegi, Bill Roach, and Franus (Darian) Tomkiewicz from Veolia Water take a water break at Oka' Yanahli Preserve.

taking nature TO THE STREETS

PAINTING MIDTOWN WITH NATURE

You know that old saying "when one door closes, another one opens"? Well it couldn't be more true for our Oklahoma City office. This year, our 2nd story office lease on NW 63rd Street was not renewed. So we decided to take this opportunity and not search the city high... but to just search the city low. We wanted to find something streetside and open ourselves to the public in a local community that would be receptive to our mission!

Through the help of Conservancy friend Chad Elmore, we scored a primo location in Oklahoma City's Midtown District, right across the street from Ludivine Restaurant, Barre 3, and a host of other locally owned businesses.

Our new streetside office at 408 NW 7th St. (7th and Hudson) provides us with ample space at a non-profit friendly rate! Local artist Dr. Bob Palmer graced us with his talents by providing an awesome bison mural in our visitor/educational room featuring preserve artifacts, posters, brochures, and other items to educate visitors. Visitors can also meet our new fiberglass bison friend "Beaudacious" donated by Board Chairman John Groendyke and painted by Dr. Bob Palmer.

NATURE AT NIGHT

Each month from March to October, we participate in our neighborhood's monthly H&8th Night Market event, family and pet-friendly street festival built around a lineup of the city's top gourmet food trucks and our new OKC office is located smack dab in the middle of all the fun!

Here, we have the opportunity to talk conservation with approximately 5,000-7,500 attendees. We open up our educational room and bring hands-on nature activities to the streets. From stilt walkers to chalk art, we engage attendees of all ages!

Food trucks, live music and nature... what more could you ask for!







BRINGING THE CONVERSATION TO THE CITY



COME ON IN! HANDS-ON Nature Octivities!





Clockwise from top left: Attendees of the August H&8th Night Market help color an underwater "What's in Your Nature?" chalk mural; "Mother Nature" towered over the crowd spreading the message of conservation to attendees of the July H&8th Night Market; kids get to see what they look like with bison horns in the Oklahoma City office visitor/educational center; signage welcoming guests to our Nature at Night activities; "Beaudacious" on display in the new Oklahoma City office visitor/educational center.

protecting water for PEOPLE AND NATURE

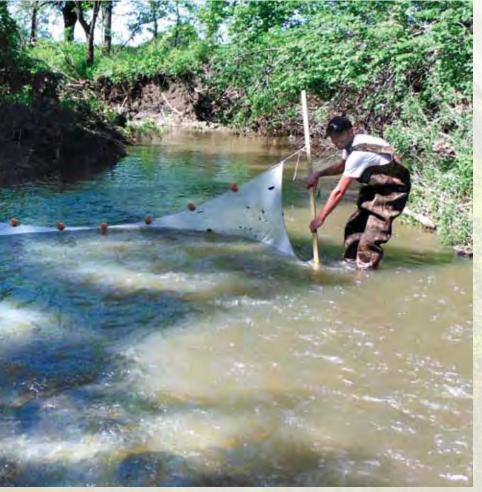






MOVING TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE





FLOWING FORWARD

Today, global demands for food, energy and shelter are putting unprecedented pressure on the resources of the planet. Water is at the heart of this crisis.

The Nature Conservancy believes that strong alternatives exist. A sustainable, cost-effective and multi-benefit water system will need to integrate traditional engineered infrastructure with solutions rooted in nature. Nature is not only the ultimate source of all freshwater, but it also provides a rich portfolio of services, such as keeping water clean for drinking, industrial use, irrigation and recreation.

With the launch of Oklahoma's new Statewide Freshwater Conservation Program, we are focused on leveraging our freshwater expertise to fundamentally change how the state manages its water resources – bending the curve toward a blend of solutions that value the role nature plays in maintaining its own ecosystems, for the benefit of people and other species as well.

Since January, aquatic monitoring plans have been put into place at Oklahoma's five primary preserves: Four Canyon, J.T. Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife, Tallgrass Prairie, Oka' Yanahli and Pontotoc Ridge.

Kimberly Elkin, Freshwater Conservation Programs Director has been collecting aquatic data on the biology, water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity of water resources on the preserves. This data will be utilized to develop environmental flow recommendations for streams and rivers on the preserves.

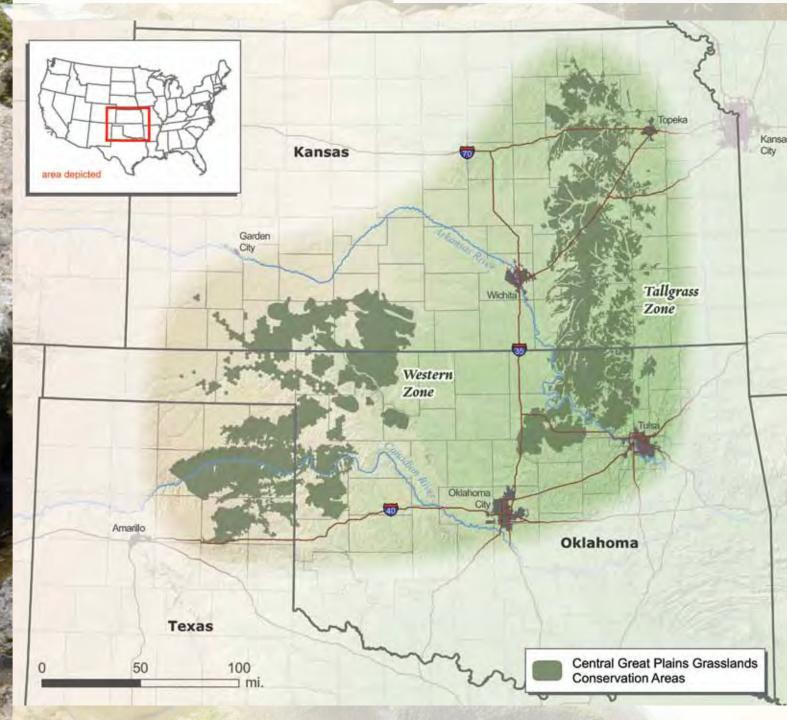
The Statewide Freshwater Program is critical for a comprehensive approach to conservation and we look forward to utilizing the data collected to improve sustainability in our great state!

Clockwise from top left: Freshwater Ecologist Kimberly Elkin measures the flow of water in the Canadian River at the Four Canyon Preserve; identifying fish collected in the Canadian River with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; Preserve Director Jona Tucker identifies and counts macroinvertabrates at the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve; Ranch Hand Perry Collins and Assistant Director of Science & Stewardship Tony Brown seine for fish in Sand Creek at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

development BY DESIGN

"One of the main ways we are able to achieve our mission is by using a non-confrontational, collaborative approach to conservation."

~ Mike Fuhr, State Director



MAKING SMARTER DECISIONS NOW







PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

More than two-hundred individuals gathered in August for "Partners in Conservation" appreciation luncheons in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, hosted by The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma.

"Partners in Conservation is our way of saying thank you to many of the supporters that help make a conservation difference here in Oklahoma," State Director Mike Fuhr said. "Corporate and foundation support means conservation success in Oklahoma, providing funding for the onthe-ground stewardship activities of The Nature Conservancy. We simply cannot do it without our partners."

Clockwise from far left: A map showing the conservation areas for the Central Great Plains Grasslands Initiative; Neal McCaleb and Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation with State Director Mike Fuhr at the Oklahoma City Partners in Conservation luncheon; Four Canyon Preserve Director Chris Hise presents at the Tulsa Partners in Conservation luncheon; Pam Holton, board member Steve Holton, State Director Mike Fuhr, and board member Deanne Hughes at the Tulsa Partners in Conservation luncheon.

PROTECTING THE GRASSLANDS

In 2013, the Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas chapters joined forces to launch the Central Great Plains Grasslands Initiative, a collaborative effort to conserve two vast areas of native prairie in parts of the three states. This work is fostered by The Nature Conservancy, in concert with private ranchers, agencies, and industry, to benefit nature and people. The area is a scenic stronghold for rare species like prairie chickens, bats, horny toads and other unique wildlife. The area is also crucial to the economies of all three states through ranching, crop production, energy development, and tourism.

By working at scales beyond state boundaries, and by working with new and existing partners, we will develop and implement strategies that support and enhance private, productive use of grasslands in ways that minimize fragmentation and foster ecological health.

As part of this whole systems plan, the Conservancy will work with private landowners and others to:

- Develop oil and gas and renewable energy in the best way possible – Working with landowners, oil and gas and wind energy industry leaders to develop new, collaborative solutions to make sure that energy production uses siting and best management practices that minimize impacts to nature.
- Support native grazing land health and stewardship

 Helping ranchers combat cedar tree invasion and improve grassland health with prescribed fire that benefits both wildlife and livestock production.
- Generate support and funding for grassland conservation – Creating awareness and interest in this vast prairie region, so that funding is available for energy production best practice development, cooperative agricultural ventures, improving livestock grazing conditions, and conserving the natural values of grasslands.

planning your **FUTURE NOW**

JOIN THE LEGACY CLUB!

The Legacy Club is a special group of supporters who have included The Nature Conservancy as part of their long-term financial planning. Whether by making a specific bequest, designating a gift from an IRA or establishing an annuity or remainder trust, there is a vehicle to suit everyone's circumstances. And legacy giving isn't just for the wealthy, every gift makes a difference!



LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS

Anonymous (3) Barbara Avery David & Janis Bailey Judy Barto Stan & Marva Beair Belynda K. Bland Della F. Blankinship Jonni E. Booth Donna Bovd Kristy K. Bradley D.P. Brown Tony L. Brown* Robert & Theresa Burkett William A. Carter William H. Coolidge John & Kim Cougher* Ralph & Marion Daub Elizabeth J. Dice Doyle Dow Kimberly Elkin & Kyle Terpstra* June Endres Lois Marie Fees Peter A. Frederick Roy & Lee Fritze Mike & Heather Fuhr* Vera Gatch Harriet Gleaton David & Glenda Hairston Rod Harwood

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*denotes TNC-OK staff or trustee

MAKING YOUR WISHES COME TRUE

"In a way, we think of being Legacy Club members like being organ donors; we don't know exactly what will happen to the donation after it is made, but there's a good chance something positive will come of it. We feel great about our decision to name The Nature Conservancy as one of three charities that will inherit part of our estate after we are gone."

~ Doug Gaffin & Mariëlle Hoefnagels

MAKING IT COUNT

Many of us tend to put off writing our estate plans. Once we finally get to it, we don't always let charitable groups know that we've left them a bequest. And while we may think this will be a nice surprise, it could mean that your gift doesn't get used in the way in which you intended. For example, donors to The Nature Conservancy may assume that their bequest would naturally go to their state chapter or to the programs they have supported

during their lifetimes. But that won't necessarily happen unless they specifically name the state or program. Making sure your gift is used as you wish is as simple as completing the appropriate form. If you are interested in learning more about the variety of planned gifts, please contact Nancy Hatfield in Tulsa at 918-550-8606, nhatfield@tnc.org or John Cougher in OKC at 405-445-5499, jcougher@tnc.org.

QUICK, SIMPLE AND HASSLE-FREE!

The Nature Conservancy's Donor Advised Fund can help you streamline your giving and allow you to focus on your family's philanthropic goals. Check out the advantages of the Donor Advised Fund versus a private foundation:

Features	The Nature Conservancy Donor Advised Fund	Private Foundation
Start-up fees	No	Yes
Excise taxes	No	Yes
Donor can retain anonymity	Yes	No
Donor responsibility for record keeping & tax return preparation	No	Yes
Maximum income tax charitable deduction allowed per year	30% of adjusted gross income for property, 50% for cash	20% of adjusted gross income, 30% for cash
Tax on net investment income	None	2%



To discuss whether The Nature Conservancy Donor Advised Fund is right for you, please contact Steve McGuffin at (405) 445-5043 or by email at smcguffin@tnc.org.

General of the save those very special "last great places" in Oklahoma and beyond will continue well beyond our time on this planet. We are confident that The Nature Conservancy will be responsible stewards of the resources from our Legacy Club gift."

~ Rudy & Deb Herrmann

awards and RECOGNITIONS





From top to bottom: Oklahoma State Director, Mike Fuhr and Pontotoc Ridge/Oka' Yanahli Preserve Director, Jona Tucker accept the Team Builders Award at the 22nd Annual Environmental Excellence Celebration hosted by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful; Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Director Bob Hamilton leads a prescribed burn, one of many conservation initiatives with which Bob and his team help local landowners.

COLLABORATION ON THE BLUE

The Nature Conservancy, Chickasaw Nation, Inasmuch Foundation, The Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg and Robert A. Macklanburg, Jr. Foundation, Dolese Bros. Co., and Rudy & Deb Herrmann were each recognized with the "Team Builders Award" by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful for their partnership this past year on the Oka' Yanahli Preserve!

The Oka' Yanahli Preserve was also honored as one of two sites in Oklahoma selected by the U.S. Department of Interior to be part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Program.

LEADING OUR FUTURE

State Director Mike Fuhr was honored at The Journal Record's 2013 "Most Admired CEO" banquet. Each year, this event honors dedicated leaders in our community and this year Mike was one of them! Mike's collaborative strategy for our organization landed him as a finalist among this prestigious list of CEOs. Thanks Mike for all your hard work leading us to a better future for Oklahoma!

PASSION FOR PROTECTING THE AOUIFER

Due to her tireless efforts to preserve and protect the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer in south-central Oklahoma, Jona Tucker was honored by the Citizens for the Protection of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer (CPASA). Jona manages the Pontotoc Ridge and Oka' Yanahli Preserves which are delicately located within the area of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, a sole source aquifer.

HATS OFF TO BOB

As the Director of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Bob Hamilton works with many different parties: from the ranching community to the oil/gas industry. But he couldn't do it without reliable resources. One of his greatest resources is Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (OSU DANSR). They crowned him as a DANSR Champion! Congratulations to Bob... A man who wears many hats!

financial SUMMARY

For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013

Support &
Revenue

Dues and Contributions Mitigation	\$4,445,439 \$778,652
Government Grants	\$170,173
Investment Income	\$1,153,099
Other Income	\$1,177,971
Gifts of Land	\$910,000
Support from/(to) other TNC management units	(\$570,313)
Total Support & Revenue	\$8,065,021

\$2,397,446

Conservation Program Expenses

Expenses & Purchases of Conservation Land and Easements

Conservation Land Aquired/Capital Expenditures	\$170,200
Total Conservation Activities and Actions General and Administrative Expenses Fundraising Expenses	\$2,567,646 \$253,032 \$481,529
Total Administrative & Fundraising	\$734,561
Total Expenses & Purchases of Conservation Land & Easements	\$3,302,207
Net Result - Support & Revenue over Expenses & Purchases of Conservation Land & Easements	\$4,762,814

Asset, Liability & Net Asset Summary

Expenses & Purchases of Conservation Land & Easements	\$4,762,814
Conservation Land and Easements	\$32,710,556
Investments Held for Conservation Projects Endowment Investments Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	\$3,634,024
	\$16,723,584
	\$1,363,168
Current Assets	\$61,617
Other Assets	\$650
Total Assets	\$54,493,600
Total Liabilities	\$1,597,891
Total Net Assets	\$52,895,709

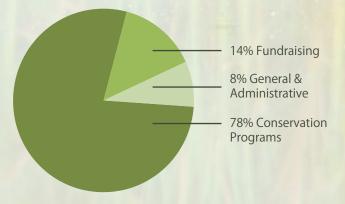
Dues & Contributions by Donor Type

For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013



Total Programmatic Efficiency

For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013



These are unaudited financials of The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma, a chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Audited financial statements of The Nature Conservancy can be found at nature.org.

conservation **VISIONARIES**

The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma is honored to recognize the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations whose contributions have supported our work between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. We deeply appreciate every gift and regret that space constraints prevent us from listing all donors. Thank you for your generous contributions.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

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\$25,000 - \$99,999

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\$500 - \$2,499

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Zarrow Families Foundation

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Jeremy Tubbs
Preserve Director

Jeremiah Holland Preserve Steward

Matthew Webb

Restoration Intern

Pontotoc Ridge Preserve Jona Tucker

Jona Tucker
Preserve Director

Kimberly Elkin Freshwater Conservation Program Director (statewide)

Franklin Leroy Alm Land Steward

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Bob Hamilton Preserve Director

Harvey Payne Community Relations Coordinator

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welcome NEW STAFF

This past year brought new talent to our team: **Ashley Dubriwny** joined us this spring as our new Director of Operations and **Tomi Treat** joined us last fall as our Operations Assistant.

Ashley holds a Master's degree in education and has over ten years of experience in performance management and leadership development. She and her husband Nic have two young daughters, Lyla, 4 and Eva, 1.

Tomi rejoins the Conservancy after having worked in operations and philanthropy from 2006 to 2009. Tomi is in her final semester at the University of Oklahoma, earning a bachelor degree in Psychology. She has extensive experience with administrative management, accounts receivable/payable, and customer service. Tomi and her husband Justin have two children, Bradley, 10 and Madison, 2.

Working for the Conservancy has afforded me the opportunity to support vital conservation efforts across the state of Oklahoma. I am ever inspired by the passion, brilliance, and commitment of our team. I feel proud to join them in championing our mission of conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. 33

~ Ashley Dubriwny



My family and I greatly value nature and believe that thru the conservation efforts of the Conservancy, many generations will be able to experience the beauty, fun, and nostalgia that nature has to offer. 39

~ Tomi Treat



Top to bottom: Ashley Dubriwny, Director of Operations. Tomi Treat, Operations Assistant.