

CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECC
July 2000

Working together to ensure Mother Nature and industry both thrive

Oklahoma City planners and community leaders recognize the hard work and progress Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., has made as a community partner to ensure the fragile pre-settlement remnant prairie and surrounding ecosystem co-exist with one of the state's largest industrial complexes. Today industry and nature thrive side-by-side with every effort to minimize or eliminate distress to the environment and wildlife without jeopardizing the defense missions of the future.

"Our involvement with managing natural resources and our partnership with the community goes far beyond the front gate," said Mr. John Krupovage, natural resources manager. "In the past year we have planted over 200 trees, but our diamond in the rough is ten acres of remnant prairie land."

Occasionally one can spot the yellow-crowned night-heron along the shore of Tinker's trophy bass pond and a pair of red-tailed hawks hover motionless over the treetops adjacent to Scissortail Trail and the remnant prairie.

Over 2,500 species of flowering plants are native to the Oklahoma landscape and a rare Oklahoman wildflower, still call Tinker home. The statewide loss of native prairie lands and grasses are contributing to the diminished numbers of the Beardtongue now found on the global list of rare plants.

Recognizing the importance of educating today's youth, Earth Day at Tinker helps children understand nature's message, "We're interconnected, interrelated and interdependent. We work together to make it happen."

- Mr. Brian Ockenfels, OC-ALC Public Affairs

Snake Quiz

Snakes are among the most misunderstood and maligned members of the animal world. Unfounded stories have only added to the misunderstanding and occasional hysteria that surrounds these fascinating reptiles. How much do you know about snakes? Find out by taking ENN's snake quiz.

Full Story and quiz:

http://www.enn.com/features/2000/06/06202000/snakequiz_13898.asp

Read any good books on
cultural or natural resources?
Pass along your critic.



Keep your eyes open --
ECC is working on their
webpage with lots of
new information and
useful links.

Suggestions welcome.

HQ AFCEE/ECC, HQ USAF/ILEVP HOST USAF NATURAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP

Thirty-eight workshop attendees met at HQ AFCEE, Brooks AFB, TX, 18-20 April 00. Attendees included representatives from ten USAF MAJCOMS and seven Installations, as well as representatives from the U. S. Army, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Historical Commission. Major issues discussed included Budget Building and how the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments (SAIA) affects setting A-106 funding priorities, Operational Risk Management Integration into Budgeting, and A-76/Outsourcing. Also discussed were issues dealing with Manpower Retention, use of labor from the Student Conservation Association and Training Requirements for Personnel Occupying Natural/Cultural Resources Positions. The major focus of the workshop was development of an outline for revision of AFI 32-7064 and AFI 32-7065. Separate breakout groups met on the second and third days of the workshop and provided specific suggestions and language addressing particular sections of the AFIs. Workgroups were formed to deal with specific chapters of the AFIs and a prospective timetable was prepared to complete revisions by December 2000.

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WEBS FOR WINGS

Web users can obtain daily forecasts of migratory bird movements, learn about best viewing spots and how human activity impacts birds. Check out: www.birdcast.org to see actual bird migrations throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

Other sites:

- USFWS, International Migratory Bird Day: birds.fws.gov/imbd.html

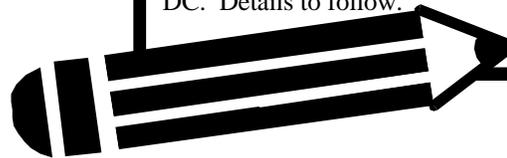


CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS:

12-16 Sept 2000, Nashville, Tennessee, The Wildlife Society 7th Annual Conference: "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science and Education" **Deadline for Call for Papers is February 10, 2000.** For information, please contact: The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 U.S.A.; tel: (301) 897-9770; fax: (301) 530-2471; email: tws@wildlife.org; web: <http://esa.sdsc.edu/www.wildlife.org>.

25-28 Sept, 2000, Flagstaff, Arizona
The Third Rare and Endangered Plant Conference will be held at the DuBois Conference Center, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ. Contact Dr. Joyce Maschinski or website at <http://www.thearb.org>

Plan ahead for the National Military Fish and Wildlife Annual Meeting this year in Washington DC. Details to follow.



On-Line Guidance for NEPA and Section 106 Compliance

GSA has new, friendly, on-line guidance for complying with NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA. The site refers specifically to GSA issues, but is useful for anyone looking for guidance. The site can lead you through completing a compliance project with its step-by-step self-directed educational tool. Or, it can be used as a general reference guide for NHPA Section 106-related NEPA compliance. It also has a GSA CATEX list, which might be useful for comparison. Anyone can access the site at: <http://www.gsa.gov/pbs/pt/call-in/envbook/ebook.htm>

This just in from the Aug 2000 Federal Preservation Forum Newsletter:

Help with Section 106: "Standard" language for Section 106 Memoranda of Agreement and other documents, such as formats, generic stipulations, and standard language for preservation restrictions in property transfers, can now be downloaded from the National Preservation Institute web site. Go to <http://www.npi.org> and hit the "tools for cultural resource managers" button. You'll get a page offering three options: Standard stipulations, Standard formats, and Standard restrictions, each of which will lead you to those specific sections.

What you get when you seek a specific stipulation, e.g. "termination," or "archaeological data recovery" is some discussion of how to use the stipulation, plus an example of the stipulation itself suitable for cutting, pasting, and adaptation in your document. Standard formats have been adapted from old formats and updated to be consistent with the revised regulations. Standard restrictions are adapted from existing Advisory Council material. However, none of the material has the official or unofficial imprimatur of the Advisory Council.

Feel free to call or contact HQ AFCEE/ECC (Dr. James Wilde DSN 240-6546; or Ms. Julia Cantrell DSN 240-3515) for help or discussions regarding standard language usage and adoption.

For more information on any of these articles. Contact HQ AFCEE/ECC, DSN 240-3808