

Oklahoma
State
University



INSIDE:

December
Happenings 1

Outdoor Recreation
Field Trip 2

Geog. of Oklahoma
Field Trip 3

Field Methods
Field Trip 4



Geography Newsletter

December 2013

December Happenings

The departmental Christmas party and potluck dinner is being hosted by Dr. Lightfoot on **Friday, December 6, at 6 PM.** Maps are available in the Geography Office.

This party features a “White Elephant” or “Dirty Santa” gift exchange. For those who wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift worth approximately \$10-15 for exchange. After drawing numbers, each participant selects and opens a gift in turn, which can be “stolen” by subsequent participants up to two times before becoming frozen and the permanent possession of the second thief. This often results in spirited, and mostly good-natured, competition for good gifts (especially geographically-themed ones) as well as some gifts that probably belong on the Island of Misfit Toys (but good to save for next year’s party!). Ugly sweaters are optional...



As a reminder, Finals Week is December 9-13, and then the university is closed from Monday, December 23 through Wednesday, January 1. The Spring 2014 semester begins on Monday, January 13. Departmental employees (GTAs and GRAs) are expected to be on duty the week of January 6-10.

Don’t forget – AAG registration deadline (April 8-12, 2014 in Tampa, FL) is **DECEMBER 3, 2013.**

Geography of Outdoor Recreation Field Trip



Scott Hood holding rainbow trout

On Saturday, November 9, Dr. John Davenport conducted a field trip to the Lower Illinois River for his Geography of Outdoor Recreation course (GEOG 4153). While visiting the Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit, a public fishing area located below Tenkiller Reservoir, students were led on a guided tour by Mr. Scott Hood, the current vice-president of Tulsa Fly Fishers (TFF) and the local chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). Both recreational groups are actively involved in working with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and federal agencies to create the necessary habitat and ensure water quality necessary for weekly stocking of brown and rainbow trout.



Students on the trail...

A number of environmentally related topics were broached during students' "riverside chat" with the hover of trout fishing enthusiasts that was present, including (a) the recent addition of a minimum-flow pipe and ten stream gauges to assist with monitoring of water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels, (b) exotic species and existing upstream threats to water quality, and (c) the underlying conservation ethic that helps inform TFF/TU's work on and recreational use of the river. Following a rather fortuitous cast-catch-n-release demonstration, students joined TFF/TU group members for a picnic lunch before driving through Gore, the fly fishing capital of Oklahoma, located along the Arkansas River and Robert S. Kerr Loch and Dam System, on their way back to Stillwater.

Geography of Oklahoma Field Trip

On Friday, November 15, Dr. Brad Bays led a field trip across the state for his GEOG 3703: Geography of Oklahoma course. The highlights of the 13-hour field trip included a visit to the Oklahoma Territorial Plaza in Perkins, where students were treated to a tour by Mr. Bob Constine of: (a) the home of Frank Eaton (Pistol Pete), (b) a 1910s barn, (c) an exhibit of pre-1920 farm implements, (d) a territorial-era one-room school house, and (e) a restored railroad station from the 1940s. The trip continued to Carney where recent tornado damage was viewed, then to Arcadia to tour the round barn and to eat lunch at Pop's.



Inside the haymow of Arcadia's famous "round barn"



Shelling corn in Perkins

After lunch the group headed east along old Route 66 to see the eclectic pop culture museum and the original 1926 alignment of Route 66. The group continued on to Luther, Wellston, and Warwick and visited the Seaba Station Motorcycle Museum, which is also home to the purported "first flush-toilet Route 66 public restroom west of the Mississippi" (or something like that—but they don't flush so well anymore), then on to Chandler and the UFO garage before finishing up in Chouteau (Mayes County). There the group viewed farm settlement patterns, house characteristics, and barn types along the back roads of the Oklahoma Amish Triangle, visited an Amish grocery store, and ended the evening with a carb-packing, family-style Amish supper at the Norman Miller farm near Mazie.



Rest stop, Route 66 style

Field Methods Field Trip

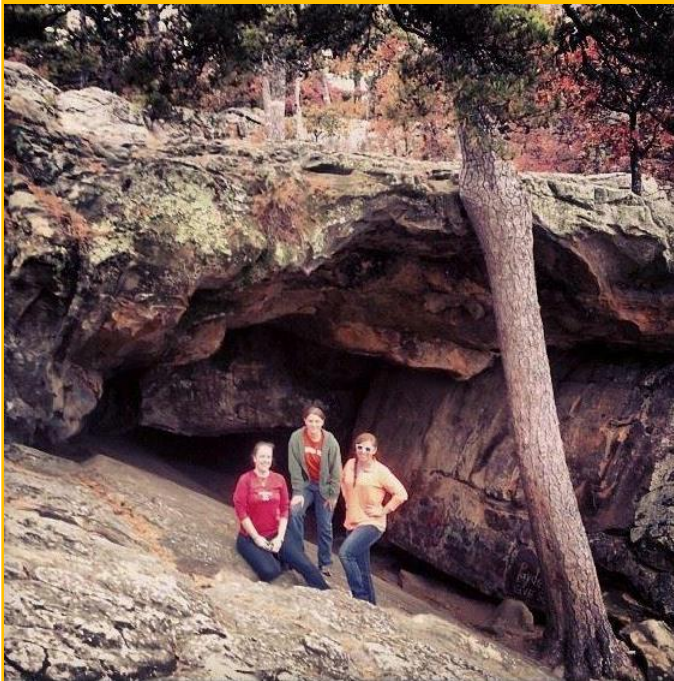
From November 14-16, Dr. Jackie Vadjunec led a field trip for 24 students from GEOG 4313 and GEOG 6313 to Wilburton, OK and Robber's Cave State Park. They have been working with "Wilburton MainStreet," part of the Oklahoma MainStreet program, the Wilburton Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma State Parks Office (OKC), and Robber's Cave State Park officials to organize student-based projects focusing on issues surrounding tourism, environment, revitalization and economic development in the region.

Through these projects, students get the opportunity to gain valuable fieldwork experience, while these local agencies receive help creating much needed items such as tourist maps, brochures, and Geographic Information System (GIS) database layers



Atop Robber's Cave (photo by Falon King)

Field Methods Field Trip (continued)



Keeley Heise, Lauren Wood, and Stephanie Heald at cave entrance



The cabins (photo by Jeremy Henning)





Chris Krieger at cave entrance

(photos by Keeley Heise)



Samayita Bandyopadhyay tries her first s'more

Field Methods Field Trip (continued)

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Thank you OSU Geography Program

On November 14-16, undergraduate and graduate level students from OSU traveled to our area to do some work. The undergraduate students worked on several projects related to the hiking trails and history of Robbers Cave State Park. Graduate students worked to discover perceptions surrounding tourism in our area, as well as studying our history and culture. We look forward to results from their work in January or February. Thank you to everyone who welcomed the group and took part in the studies.

<http://okcommerce.gov/main-street/>