

## Midwest State Park Executive Conference Agenda

Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Registration
- 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Welcome – **Dinner**  
**NASPD Update – Lewis Ledford** – Where are we at with state parks across the nation, challenges, and successes. 30mins
- 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm Hospitality and Networking

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 7:00 am to 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 am to 9:00 am Opening Ceremony and Welcome: Forrest McMurray and Sterling Zearley
- 9:00 am to 10:30 am Speaker: Walt Dabney  
*Public Lands in America* - Our responsibilities to manage them and protect them for future generations and how to lead our folks on this endeavor.
- 10:30 am to 11:00 am **Break/Exhibits/Vendors**
- 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Speaker: Kelly Ferrell  
*You Are a Bridge: Keeping Focus on Park Resources and Visitor Experiences*  
Explore how YOU are vital in connecting your park system's past and future.  
Examine strategies you can use to foster focused thinking and decision making, with regard to resource stewardship and visitor experiences. Expect to be challenged to sharpen your focus for your life's work.
- 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Attendee Brag Session – Sharing Ideas and Accomplishments
- 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm **Break/Exhibits/Vendors**
- 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm Speaker: Donald Forgione  
*Resilient Rangers: Leading Through the Storm*  
Resiliency goes beyond mere survival; it's about thriving despite the challenges. From staff shortages to increased visitation, resilience is essential. Donald takes us through a compelling journey of inspiring personal stories of resiliency, empowering us to cultivate resilient workplace cultures.
- 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm Word from our Title Sponsors – United Ag and Turf
- 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm **Dinner**
- 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm Hospitality and Networking

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- 7:30 am Grab and Go **Breakfast**
- 8:00 am **Depart Sequoyah State Park** - 19808 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441  
**Arrive Cherokee National Museum** - 101 S Muskogee Ave Tahlequah OK, 74464  
17 miles, 22 mins  
History of the Cherokees and the facilities at Tahlequah with a tour of the museum and prison. 2 hours.
- 10:30 am **Depart Cherokee National Museum** - 101 S Muskogee Ave Tahlequah OK, 74464
- 11:15 am **Arrive Natural Falls State Park** - 19225 E 578 RD Colcord, OK 74338 35 miles, 45 mins  
Park Management discussed the history of the park and areas surrounding Natural Falls State Park. 30 Mins.
- 12:15 pm **Lunch – Provided by Shuttera**

**Drone Demonstration**

Shutera staff provided a session on vegetative park maintenance incorporated a couple size drones to apply herbicides. Discussed state and federal requirements as well as optimal conditions. 30mins.

1:00 pm

**Depart** *Natural Falls State Park* - 19225 E 578 RD Colcord, OK 74338

1:45 pm

**Arrive** *GRDA Ecosystems and Education Center* – 420 SH-28 Langley, OK 74350  
42 miles, 48 mins

GRDA Staff provided and educational tour of the Grand River Dam and also spent some time in their class room discussing the operational side of GRDA as well as their public outreach resources and programs. 2.5 hours

4:30 pm

**Depart** *GRDA Ecosystems and Education Center* - 420 SH-28 Langley, OK 74350

5:30 pm

**Arrive** *Sequoyah State Park* -19808 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441 59 miles, 65 mins

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

**Dinner**

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Hospitality and Networking

**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

7:00 am to 8:30 am

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30 am to 9:00 am

Platinum Sponsorship Presentations

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Word from our Gold Sponsors

10:00 am to 10:30 am

**Break/Exhibits/Vendors**

10:30 am

**Depart** *Sequoyah State Park* -19808 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441

11:00 am

**Arrive** *Fort Gibson Historic Site* – 907 North Garrison Ave Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
19 miles, 26 mins

12:30 pm

**Lunch** – Sack lunch

Speaker: Lynda Ozan

*Preservation and Perseverance: Care Before its Gone*

Lynda Ozan, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Oklahoma will discuss preservation successes and failures from around the state; how the staff handles the highs and lows of those events; recent public input specific to preservation; and, where does our agency go from here. 1.5 Hours

1:00 pm

**Depart** *Fort Gibson Historic Site* - 907 North Garrison Ave Fort Gibson, OK 74434

2:00 pm

**Arrive** *Gathering Place* - 2650 S. John Williams Way E Tulsa, OK 74114  
56 miles, 54 mins

4:30 pm

**Depart** *Gathering Place* - 2650 S. John Williams Way E Tulsa, OK 74114

Executive leadership discussed this operation from initiation to reality and explained how it is managed, what the mission and goals are. Everything to how it was built to how it is managed and staffed. 1.5hours

5:30 pm

**Arrive** *Sequoyah State Park* -19808 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441 49 miles, 52 mins

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

**Dinner** - Sequoyah Group Camp– Welcome: Shelley Zumwalt Speaker: Kent Rollins

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Hospitality and Networking

11:00 PM

Vendors please have your items cleared out