

Bradly and Annis Brauser



Selenite Crystal Is the Oklahoma State Crystal...Can You Dig It?

The Great Salt Plains is a National Wildlife Refuge located near Jet, Oklahoma. They are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. Special events were held at the refuge during the last weekend of April. The National Wildlife Refuge has a schedule with various activities that runs throughout the year. Check out their website www.greatsaltplains.com and plan on fishing, hiking trails, bird watching or crystal digging.

April 30, 2005 marked the date for the Birding and Crystal Festival. This date not only meant that people would converge out on the vast land

of white to dig for their prize selenite crystals but to also witness a part of history. Senator David Myers, Senator Kathleen Wilcoxon along with Representative Jeff Hickman were there for the recognition of students from Bryant and Red Oak Elementary and their teacher Annis Brauser. This group of ambitious youth under the leadership of Mrs. Brauser took it upon themselves to designate the Selenite Crystal as Oklahoma's Official State Crystal. The idea came after they took a field trip to the Great Salt Plains. This group is part of the Moore District Gifted and Talented school program called S.E.A.R.C.H., which stands for "Students Experiencing



Bruce Leibold and son digging for crystals.

Appropriate Research and Creative Happenings." Mrs. Brauser explained how much research and work her students did to accomplish this goal. She stated that they used the Internet for their resources. Students have a portfolio with all the information in chronicle order of their accomplishment. They not only learned about geology but had a first hand experience in



Ian from Midwest City

government. The trip to the capitol to make their request was a double learning encounter. They learned about each floor of their state capitol, from the history to the meaning and the significance. The process of naming the Selenite as the State Crystal didn't go without some



Digging and searching for a crystal treasure.

glitches. They went against some opposition concerning the definition of gem and if the Selenite fell within the guidelines. The students were reluctant to change their

legislation at first but learned about the give and take involved in getting a bill through the legislature and signed into law. On Wednesday, April 27, 2005, Gov. Brad Henry signed the Senate Bill 4, which names the Selenite as Oklahoma's Official



Roger and Claire, a Dad and Daughter team!

State Crystal. I spoke with Annis Brauser at the Crystal Dig Festival. The brief time I spoke with her about their achievement and what it involved, you could see the love of teaching in her eyes, actions, and in her heart. She truly loves her job! Red Oak Elementary has a true precious "Gem" and she definitely falls into the guidelines. Congratulations to Bryant and Red Oak for a job well done and here's to another 75 years at the National Wildlife Refuge!

~Kim Reilly, Member Relations/Econ. Dev. Assistant



Team working!

KanOkla
PO Box 111, Caldwell, KS 67022-0111
(620-845-5682)

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KanOkla Headquarters and KanOkla Store
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Office closed Saturday and Sunday
Help Desk
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Monday-Friday.....7:30a.m. to 9:00p.m.
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COMPANY TELEPHONE NUMBERS
(No toll charge within KanOkla service area)
Customer Service, Trouble Reporting, and
Other Business.....620-845-5682
Or dial 611 inside the KanOkla Service Area.
In emergency.....Dial Operator

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What's All The Buzzzzz About?

KanOkla Long Distance & Whirlwind DSL Bundles!

Already on KanOkla Long Distance?
Sign up for a **DSL/LD Bundle** and receive **1st Month FREE**

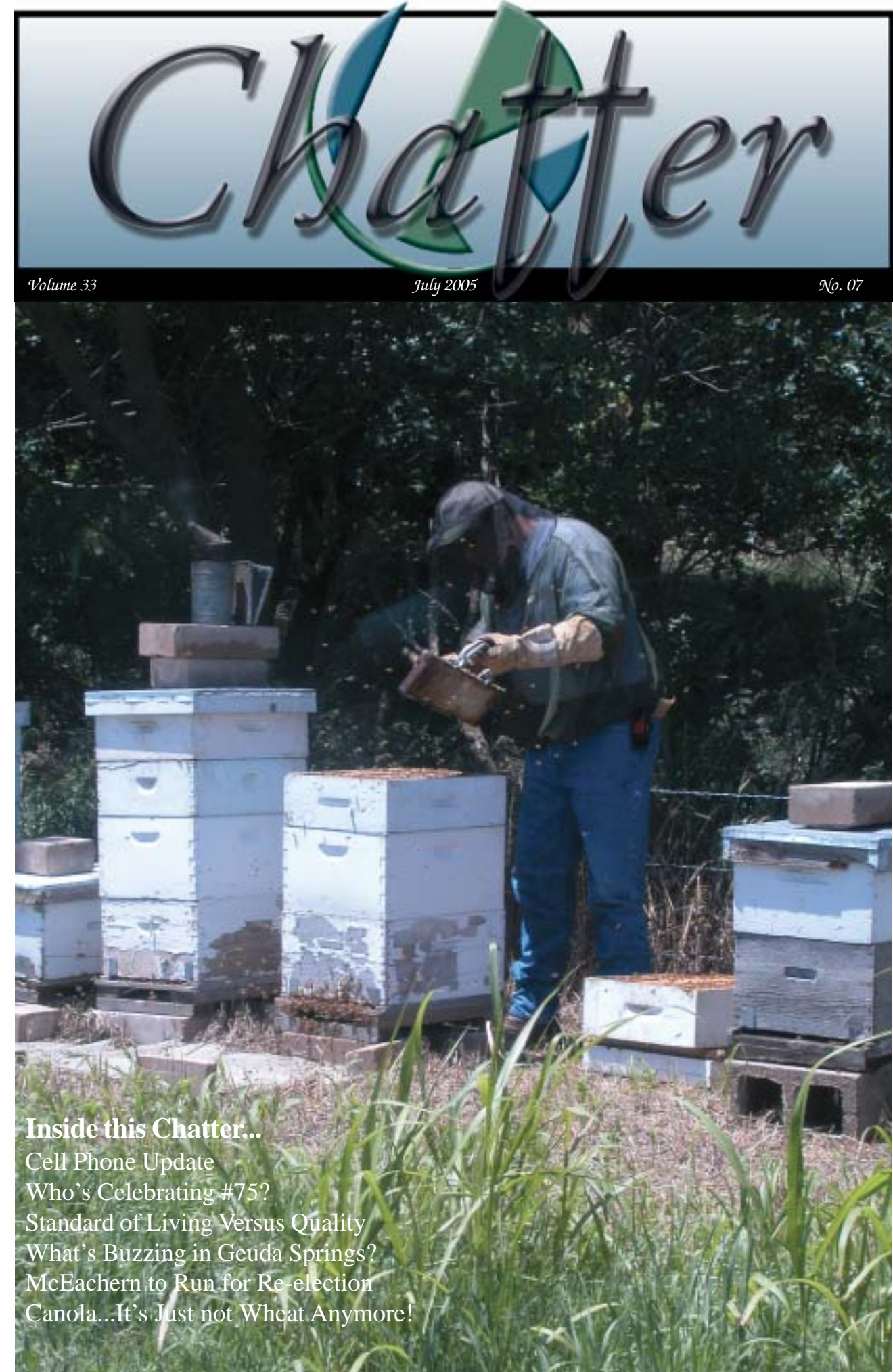
NOT a KanOkla Long Distance Customer?
Sign up for **KOLD** and receive a **\$25 gift card** & **1st Month FREE**

Sign up for a **DSL/LD Bundle** and receive **1st Month FREE**

Current DSL subscribers not eligible. Certain restrictions apply. Offer good July 2005 only. Call 611 for details.

Survey Winner
David Reedy of Caldwell, KS won a \$25 KanOkla Gift Card for returning the survey. Congratulations!

We have a \$50 Winner
Lelia Wilson of Braman, OK won the drawing for paying her bill by the 10th of the month. Congratulations!



Inside this Chatter...
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Canola...It's Just not Wheat Anymore!

Canola... It's Just Not Wheat Anymore!

Did anyone notice the bright yellow field east of Caldwell on Highway 81? The sweet smelling yellow flowering waves are canola. Canola is not the name of a natural plant but a made-up word, from the words "Canada" and "low acid". Canola is a genetically engineered plant developed in Canada from the Rapeseed Plant, which is part of the mustard family.

Turek Farms is a father and sons farming operation based out of South Haven, Kansas. Gene, along with sons Greg and Tim, together have 80 years of farming experience. Turek Farms, in cooperation with Johnston Enterprises, Oklahoma State, and Monsanto, volunteered to plant Roundup Ready Canola. Tim Turek first planted canola 15 years ago but the hard winter froze the experimental crop. Tim stated the varieties have improved which help to withstand the weather elements. Greg said he researches via the Internet for other crops that fit our winter season and he also factors in the farm equipment needed. Tim says canola is similar to wheat as you need to fertilize, have a firm seedbed like alfalfa, and it takes five pounds of seed to the acre to plant. They planted 70 acres of canola and it is ready to harvest in the same time frame as wheat. When asked about harvesting the canola, he stated he had some concerns because shattering of the seed pod is a potential problem. He stated there are two ways to harvest canola, straight cut or to swath it when it is a little green and pick it up later with a combine or a special attachment. He plans to harvest the canola by swathing and will take the crop to the Hunnewell Elevator. Hunnewell has a contract with a mushroom grower, where they plan to use it for mulch. The market at the time of Kansas harvest is usually at its peak, which is \$10 per 100 weight. Canola produces from 32 to 44 bushels per acre. Tim hopes the benefit of rotation will work well for a healthier wheat crop. The drawbacks are there is no crop insurance available because of proving production and volunteer canola.

So next spring when you see a field of yellow...you will know...its canola! Hope your 2005 harvest was safe and bountiful.
~Kim Reilly, Member Relations/Econ. Dev. Assistant

Standard of Living versus Quality of Life, or Can We Have Both?

We are a generation of measuring and/or scoring everything. Consumer Reports (CR) magazine measures automobiles, home appliances, and many other things for us. Those avid CR readers depend on those measurements to make their purchasing decisions easier. We at KanOkla send our customers surveys in an effort to learn how well we are doing and what we can do better.

I was sitting in the Wichita airport recently and began visiting with a UPS employee who had been filling in at the Wichita airport location and was preparing to fly back to his home in Dallas. He mentioned that he is glad to be away from small town living where everyone seems to know what everyone else is doing. He told me that he "doesn't even know his neighbors". I commented that I enjoy the luxury of being able to say hello to people I know when we meet on the street and in local stores, and that being able to walk through area parking lots to my car without constant concern for safety is a really nice feeling. He and I have different measures for our choice of communities in which to live.

To quote Next Generation Consulting, "Standard of living has to do with the degree of prosperity in a nation, as measured by income levels, quality of housing and food, medical care, educational opportunities, transportation, communications, and other measures. Quality of life on the other hand, refers to an individual's satisfaction with his or her life and general sense of well-being. It is often measured as physical, psychological and social well-being." I really hadn't thought about it that way before. There is probably a lot to be said for "which is more important", since cheaper products and food, make it possible to purchase more, making it possible to consume more, making people in our nation more obese, making it necessary to try to cut back.

My primary point though is that those of us living in rural communities have measured the differences between city life and rural life, and we have made the choice to live in a rural community. Deciding factors might be: friendly people, locally owned businesses, wildlife, wheat fields, great views of the sunsets, or safe streets for our children.

Albert Einstein noted "Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted".

~Louise DeWitt, Human Resources Manager

Cell Phone Update

A few months ago, KanOkla announced the alliance with Sprint to expand Pioneer Cellular's wireless coverage throughout western Oklahoma and southern Kansas. This expansion will extend Pioneer Cellular phone coverage throughout most of KanOkla's landline system, including Kansas, from Medicine Lodge to Coffeyville.

Since KanOkla is an owner of Pioneer Cellular, the KanOkla Tech Store will be selling wireless phones again in about 18 months. If you live in Oklahoma, you can already get excellent service from Pioneer Cellular by going to one of the agents in Enid. When the system is totally completed in the next two years or so, it will provide our Pioneer Cellular customers with the most complete coverage in western Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Pioneer Cellular's roaming arrangement with Sprint also permits our wireless customers to have access to Sprint's nationwide voice and data network.

Pioneer Cellular will be building or leasing an additional 175 tower sites in Oklahoma and Kansas, so you can see why the whole project is taking over two years. If you'd like to see a map of the coverage area after the system is completed, feel free to visit our office.

This is exciting news for everyone in KanOkla Country, and it continues our mission of "improving the lives of our members".

~Greg Aldridge, CEO



Cathy, Logan, Nathan, Josh, and Brett pictured by the honey extractor.



What's Buzzing in Geuda Springs?



To "bee" or not to "bee" that is the question. This is the question Brett and Cathy Butler of Geuda Springs asked themselves in 1998. Brett and Cathy started their beekeeper business after purchasing bee equipment at Cathy's grandparents' estate sale. This business runs on both sides of the family. Cathy's grandparents were beekeepers in the Colwich area and Brett's dad currently is in Overland Park, Kansas.

The Butlers started this "sweet" business from a three-pound package of bees purchased through Mid-Con of Olathe, KS. The business has grown to seven hives with each hive having approximately 70,000 to 80,000 bees.

The bee network is amazing! Each bee in the hive has a job to perform. The worker bee is a female bee that contributes more than any other type of bee to the daily survival of the colony. They clean the hive, feed the larva and drones (male bees), build wax comb, tend to the Queen Bee, and guard the hive. The worker bee becomes a field bee the last three weeks of her life. They travel up to two miles from the hive and collect water, bee glue, nectar, and pollen. The communication between these intelligent insects is remarkable. A field bee comes back to the hive and can tell other bees where a great find of pollen is by a tail-wagging dance. This dance tells both location and distance in relation to the sun. These bees have to work fast as their life span is approximately six weeks. The largest bee is the queen. She has a court of twelve bees that guard, clean, and feed her. The queen bee lays 1,200 to 2,000 eggs a day. The life of a queen can be as long as four years. The drones are the male bees and they are only needed for mating with the queen. Their life expectancy is eight weeks. But...the drones are no longer needed in the wintertime so they are escorted away from the hive. If they should try to return they are killed...what a system!

The harvest of honey can start in June and ends in September. Each section of the hive contains honeycombs, which are supported by wood and wire frames. There are ten of these frames per honey super, which is a wooden box. The honey is stored in these frames. Brett explained the process to harvest the honey. First he uses a tool called a smoker, which releases a soothing smoke that calms the bees. Next he scrapes the thin layer of wax the bees place over the comb. He then places four frames at a time in an extractor, to separate the honey from the comb, which spins at 171 rpm. The procedure is then repeated for the other side of the frame. The honey is filtered twice to sift out any foreign particles. The packaging of the product is the final stage.

Their clientele are surrounding neighbors, family and friends. The honey is a natural way to help allergy sufferers. They also sell their product at surrounding Farmers' Markets. The cost of this sweet substance is \$3.00 for a 12-ounce bear and a quart is \$10.00. Cathy also markets bee's wax candles. They are naturally scented with a hint of "honey". So if you are in need of a supply of local honey or a great Kansas gift give Brett and Cathy a call at 620-447-3233.

Brett and Cathy go to workshops to learn about the trade, marketing, and packaging of this sweet product. They try to keep updated on equipment and treatment/medication of the bees. There is a double bonus with having bees as a neighbor...they help make any flowering crop double in production. Brett also mentioned to call him for swarm control. He would be interested in taking any busy bees off your property.

Brett and Cathy live on a farm in the Geuda Springs area. They have been blessed with a wonderful family of their three boys; Nathan who is 8, Logan is 6, and Josh who is 4. This family business operation shows great potential. KanOkla feels fortunate for the Butlers to "bee" our customer!

~Kim Reilly-Member Relations/Econ. Dev. Assistant



KanOkla's Wake Up call is better than an alarm clock!
This feature allows you to receive a wake up call for the time that you specify. You may only schedule two wake up calls in a given 24-hour period.

KanOkla Community Service Award Nominations Due by... August 1, 2005

Award selection is based upon the significance and extent of the nominee's service to the community



McEachern to Run for Re-election for District Seven

The KanOkla Annual Meeting is only a few months away and the procedure for the election of directors will be a little different from the past. If you remember, last November KanOkla members voted to change the process to vote ballot by mail. KanOkla patrons will have a chance to hear a three-minute speech from each candidate at the meeting. The Chatter will feature each candidate and there will be a brochure available the night of the meeting with information about the candidates. Mark your calendars for November 4, 2005 for the KanOkla Annual Meeting.

Mark McEachern is currently the KanOkla Board Director for District Seven, which is the Goltry and Jet exchange. Mark lives in Jet and is a self-employed farmer/Diesel Mechanic. He has two children, daughter Cassie and son Clint and his wife Dr. Andrea McEachern. Mark has served on the Helena Emergency Medical Service Committee for fifteen years plus assists the Jet Volunteer Fire Department. He has retired from the Jet Fire Department after volunteering for 25 years. He is a member of the Jet United Methodist Church. He likes to support the youth of the communities by attending local sporting events and livestock shows.

Mark commented that the changes he has seen while serving on the board are cheaper long distance rates, bundling services to provide members with more affordable services, and installing new fiber rings to make DSL Internet access available to virtually all of KanOkla's customers.

When asked why he wanted to run for re-election on the KanOkla Board, Mark stated, "I have been privileged to have served on the Board of Directors for the past three years. I have attended numerous conferences on the challenges facing rural telecommunication. I have brought back the knowledge that I obtained from these conferences, and applied it right here, to your local cooperative. Keeping up with rapidly changing technology and keeping our members our first priority is made possible by the hard work, dedication, and teamwork of all of KanOkla's employees, management team, and board. I assure you that if you elect me to serve another term on this successful board, I will continue to implement KanOkla's mission, that being to improve the lives of our members."



July 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12 Michael Martin Murphey Concert in Caldwell, KS.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Caldwell Demolition Derby starting at 6pm at Rodeo Grounds.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
August 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Barber County Fair in Hardtner, KS	5 Barber County Fair in Hardtner, KS.	6 Sands Pickin' Park Presents Jet Music Jam at 3pm Barber County Fair in Hardtner, KS.
7 Barber County Fair in Hardtner, KS.	8	9	10	11 Sumner County Fair in Caldwell, KS	12 Sumner County Fair in Caldwell, KS.	13 Sumner County Fair in Caldwell, KS.