



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2024

For more information, contact Jennifer Krupoff

jennifer@kirkpatrickfoundation.com or 405-608-0934

PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BELOW and [ON DROPBOX](#)

Lance Swearingin Named Deputy Director of New Oklahoma City Nature Preserve

OKLAHOMA CITY—The Red Ridge Nature Preserve Board of Governors is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Lance Swearingin as deputy director of the new nonprofit organization in Oklahoma City. He begins today, May 1, 2024.

“Red Ridge’s mission for conservation will have an enormous impact on the wildlife, nature, and people of the area, as well as visitors to Oklahoma,” says Swearingin. “Conserving the Cross Timbers forest in central Oklahoma is paramount to the health of our overall ecosystem. Native botanicals and wildlife—including the pollinators—are vitally important to all of us, and I’m thrilled to protect and preserve them.”

Highlights of Swearingin’s career include his time working for The Walt Disney Company in the gardens of the Magic Kingdom theme park, curating the botanical garden collection at the Oklahoma City Zoo, and establishing the seventy-acre urban landscape at Scissortail Park in downtown Oklahoma City.

Swearingin’s passion for the native flora of Oklahoma and his enthusiasm for progressive trends in conservation led to his appointment as deputy director of Red Ridge Nature Preserve.

Red Ridge Nature Preserve seeks to conserve the historic landscape located at Lincoln Boulevard and Northeast 50th Street in Oklahoma City, the north gateway to the Oklahoma State Capitol Complex. This new nonprofit will preserve the 133 acres of Cross Timbers forest habitat for native wildlife as a center for conservation and study.

Swearingin was born and raised in Oklahoma City. He is an Oklahoma State University graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Public Garden Management and master’s degree in Horticulture Science.

To learn more about Red Ridge Nature Preserve, please visit redridgeokc.org.

Red Ridge



LANCE SWEARENGIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RED RIDGE NATURE PRESERVE

An experienced horticulturalist, Lance Swearengin has been appointed the new deputy director for Red Ridge Nature Preserve. The 133-acre historic property in Oklahoma City is well-known for Red Ridge manor (in the background) and the annual proliferation of daffodils and jonquils in the springtime. The undeveloped, wooded area is bordered by the Deep Fork Creek and an original alignment of Route 66 and is a five-minute drive from the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Red Ridge



LANCE SWEARENGIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RED RIDGE NATURE PRESERVE

Red Ridge



Red Ridge Nature Preserve | Photograph by Mel Willis