

Conservation Partner AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE PROJECT



LOCATION

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

PARTNERS SINCE

2016

TULSA ZOO'S ANNUAL DONATION

\$5,000

LOGO



WEBSITE



AGRICULTURE.OKSTATE.EDU/
DEPARTMENTS-PROGRAMS/
ENTOMOL-PLANT-PATH

The Tulsa Zoo Conservation Program has a partnership with Oklahoma State University (OSU) and American Burying Beetle (ABB) Conservation. The American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) is a member of the carrion beetle family *Silphidae*, an important group of *detritivores* that recycle decaying materials into the ecosystem. The American burying beetle is the largest carrion-feeding insect in North America. Although it has historically been recorded from at least 150 counties in 35 states in the eastern and central United States, it declined from the 1920s to the 1960s and is currently only found at the peripheries of its former range. In 1983, the American burying beetle was included as an endangered species in the Invertebrate Red Book published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In the United States, it was placed on the state and federal endangered species lists in August 1989. The Tulsa Zoo partners with OSU and Dr. Wyatt Hoback, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

TULSA ZOO'S FOCUS

- The Tulsa Zoo supports Dr. Hoback's efforts in establishing and maintaining a laboratory colony of ABBs at the University to develop best practices for rearing and maintaining the species. Such scientific advancements will help the future of the American burying beetle and the regions it inhabits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT TULSAZOO.ORG.