



A few Minutes with...



David Kerns (l.) with Deep Fork Project Manager Steve Boatman

David Kerns, owner of LD Kerns Inc.

David Kerns is an Oklahoman. He was born and raised here; attended OU; and has spent his entire life in the state of Oklahoma. Married for 22 years with four children ages 5, 11, 13 and 15, David is a rabid outdoorsman, who is thankful for the opportunity to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Interviewer: Do you use national refuges personally?

David Kerns: We do, we do! Personally I have four children, and we like hunting, fishing and hiking. We have not used Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, as a matter of fact, I was unaware that that particular facility was actually there until we bid the project, but we have, yes.

For what do you hunt and fish?

Hunting is primarily deer and turkey, which Deep Fork is full of by the way; and fishing, we like to trout fish, and also Small and Largemouth Bass and Croppy.

How far is Jenks, Okla. from Okmulgee?

From the jobsite, it's about 22 miles.

Have you worked on government projects before?

I have, yes. We've worked with the Tulsa Housing Authority, and then we do work for several Indian tribes, and we've worked for the Oklahoma State Parks Department before.

What do you think the future holds for your company?

Well, we've been in business 10 years, and we just hope for continued success through an emphasis on customer service. I just hope for many more years of success for us if we maintain our values.

What is your personal background?

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Science, and I've been in the construction industry ever since. L.D. Kerns has been in business for 10 years.

Could you describe the project a little bit in detail what you are going to be doing?

We're the general contractor; it's going to be a new office facility for the refuge staff. It's going to be a nice looking structure - a rustic looking building that will fit in nicely with the area. We will perform dirt work and carpentry work and concrete, and we will sub (contract) out to the local area as much as we can for plumbing, electrical, building materials, heating and cooling, stuff like that.

Are you going to be hiring yourself to help complete the project?

Well actually we've already hired someone. We've put on a new superintendent as a result of this project.

And being a graduate of The University of Oklahoma, you know you might be working with some Oklahoma State Cowboys in Oklahoma!

(Laughs) Yeah, I know, it's a rivalry. It is fun. I'm very supportive of our state as a whole...except when OU's playing them in the fall!

All right, it's been great to meet you David. Good luck on the project.

Thank you, sir.