

# Instructor Bio for Tobacco Workshop

## March 2025

Plants have always fascinated me and have been a big part of my life. I worked in the greenhouse business for nearly 20 years, from construction to retail. I then became a real-estate professional and earned a real-estate brokers license, specializing in rural properties. During this time I also passed the Oklahoma real-estate appraisers exam and was certified as an appraiser, which helped me understand how land is evaluated. After that, I switched gears again and took a job as an environmental inspector for the Muscogee Nation. This was an important learning experience in many ways and introduced me to X-ray fluorescence. Later experiments with XRF and OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) opened a new career path for me as an authenticator of archaeological material and consultant. I retired from that job during the pandemic and now devote myself to working on our homestead and trying to share the lessons I have learned.

Throughout my life, I have pursued many interests ranging from history, sustainable gardening for food and nonfood plants (including my own variety of tobacco that I cultivated specifically for our unique Oklahoma climate and on the other end of the plant spectrum...tropical hibiscus for their colorful beauty), stone artifacts from around the world, geology, art, and anthropology. My goal early in life was to learn to synthesize information from a variety of sources to be able to understand and problem solve better. Synthesizing information, or pulling together knowledge from various disciplines has served me well in my different careers as well as my personal life.

*Bill Breckinridge*

