



Blue Thumb—In Pictures

February 2019



Goodbyes are not Forever

As of February 1st, our dear friend and Director has retired from Blue Thumb. Jean Lemmon was the Blue Thumb Director for the past 2 years, but she has been involved with Blue Thumb for over 20 years, since its conception in 1992. In addition to her duties as Blue Thumb Director, Jean was a Technical Writer for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for a number of years. While she will still be around Blue Thumb as a volunteer and advocate for everything that Blue Thumb stands for, Jean and her professionalism, spirit, and energy will be greatly missed from the program. Good luck on this next part of your adventure, Jean!



Quality Assurance

It's bug collection season! With every bug collection comes the chance for our volunteers to participate in a Quality Assurance session. These are important for Blue Thumb because it helps maintain the high standard of data that our monitoring volunteers collect for us on a monthly basis. These sessions are a chance for staff to make sure that correct procedures are being followed, as well as making sure that volunteers' equipment and reagents are in working order. This season, volunteers are asked to demonstrate to staff where and how to fill their sample water bottle, as well as reviewing a few key components when it comes to their monthly monitoring.



Sabrina (left) and Tim (right) fill their sample water bottle during this winter's Quality Assurance session.

Bug Collections are Underway!

After the rain and snow at the beginning of the year, bug collections have finally begun! Kim, Candice, and Becky have been to all corners of the state so far, performing bug collections and bringing new Blue Thumb Director Rebecca Bond along to show her how to do a collection Blue Thumb style. Our monitoring volunteers have been amazing, and have braved the cold and even ice and fog to perform their collections!



Bug collections are fun for all ages! Noreen (left) and Brittany (right) were out in Tulsa this month performing their winter bug collections.



Larry (right), another Tulsa volunteer, and Josh (left) in OKC also performed their winter collection, out in the cold and fog.



Education, Education, Education

Blue Thumb staff aren't the only ones who educate the public about watersheds and nonpoint source pollution! Volunteers from all over the state frequently use several different Blue Thumb tools and activities that show people how important it is to protect our most precious resource.



Karen (pictured), Beth, and Cheyanne helped spread the Blue Thumb message at the EE Expo at the Oklahoma City Zoo by manning an informational booth.



Jean also manned an informational booth at the Sustainable Tulsa's First Thursday Meeting and educated people about how we can reduce our plastic use to protect our waterways.



Maddie, Maggie, and Muriel borrowed an EnviroScope to educate the citizens of Okmulgee County about nonpoint source pollution and what we can do to stop it.