



# Blue Thumb—In Pictures



## JUNE 2017

### Blue Thumb Blog!

Rob has been doing an amazing job of sharing his experiences in Blue Thumb with visitors to our website with the Blue Thumb Blog.

Here is just a sample of his latest blog—*Testing the waters...literally!*

Recently, I was given the chance to begin monitoring my own creek, right here in Oklahoma City.

Guy James Creek is likely very familiar to those who live around it, although it's uncertain how much they actually think of the water flowing there and its quality. While it's not very wide, it cuts a deep path through the middle of Edgemere and Guy James Parks, which are part of the Edgemere Park Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lovely neighborhood surrounding the parks is filled with brick houses in a number of different architectural styles, ranging in size from small homes to mansions.

Front lawns and back yards of a residential neighborhood could, we might guess, contribute to runoff getting into Guy James Creek. Another contributing factor is the streets which border the park on all sides, 32nd on the south, 36th on the north, Hudson to the west and Harvey on the east. Not helping matters is the landscape of the parks themselves, mostly small groupings of trees, scattered around the gently rolling, grassy green hills. Along the banks of the creek, there is little to no riparian area, and the grass appears to be mowed right up to the edge of the creek. The area is not what could be called heavily wooded.



Left—Rob filling out his paperwork before he begins monitoring “his” creek.

To read the rest of Rob’s blog visit

<http://www.bluethumbok.com/the-blue-thumb-blog>

### Fish Collections are Under Way!



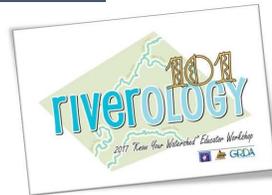
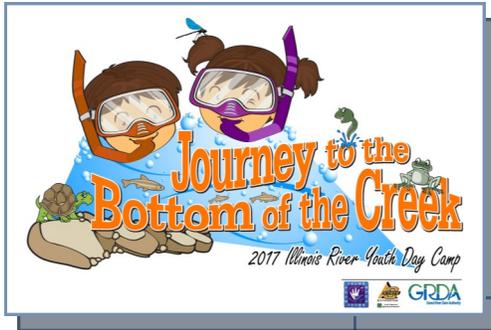
Left—Rob and intern Sherry Davis had a great time on their first official fish collection! Below, Rob and volunteer Abigail hauling in their spoils.



Right—Sometimes we have interesting visitors, such as this water snake and sadly more bullfrog tadpoles than fish.



## Summer Camps 2017!



**Riverology 101**  
**Know Your Watershed!**  
An Educator Workshop  
July 26-28, 2017  
GRDA EcoSystems Building  
Langley, OK

Blue Thumb is once again holding teachers' workshops and summer camps! In June, we headed to Tahlequah for a Journey to the Bottom of the Creek! In July, we will have an even grander adventure in Langley and turn teachers into Riverologist! What is a riverologist—an Okie who studies rivers.

## Education, Education, Education Just one of the things we do—a lot!



Top left—Jeri took the stream trailer to the Sam Noble Museum and showed kids how rivers form. Top right—Candice took kids in Stillwater on an incredible journey. Bottom left—Kim worked with boy scouts on finding and identify creek bugs. Bottom right—Rob had a great time with the Cotton County CD teaching kids about runoff.



These are just a few of the things we do each month all across Oklahoma.

