



Blue Thumb in Pictures

March 2024



Blue Thumb Training—Ada

2/21 & 2/22/2024

(Chickasaw Nation)

Blue Thumb Training for New Volunteers

Stream Protection through Education!



Blue Thumb Training—OKC

3/2 & 3/3/2024

New Volunteers Come Aboard! Two volunteer training sessions have been held in the last month and this means that additional sites are already being monitored, or new volunteers are being set up on new sites. The first day of a Blue Thumb Training for New Volunteers covers watersheds, common pollutants, stream ecology and what is expected of a new volunteer. Day Two is primarily about learning to use the Blue Thumb test kits, which are issued to volunteers who agree to monitor and submit data. Many volunteers also choose to assist or even lead education activities in their watershed. ***The next Blue Thumb Training will be held in Tishomingo on June 1 & 2, 2024.***



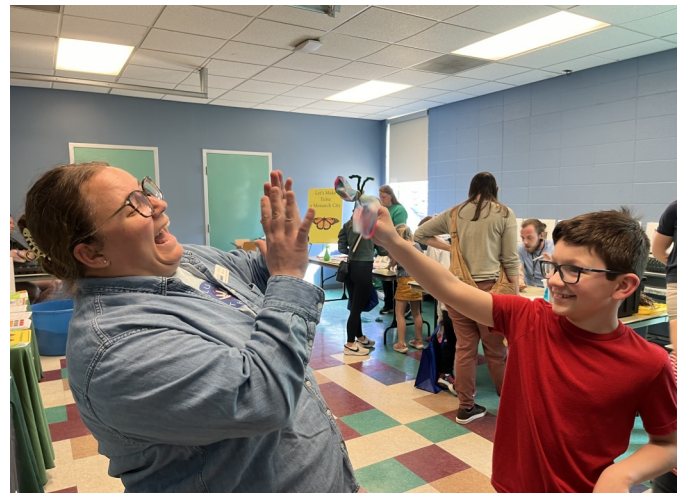
New Blue Thumb Volunteer Presley McClure, Murray County Conservation District, just trained in Ada February 21 and 22 and already she is monitoring Buckhorn Creek!

Buckhorn Creek is what is known as a Blue Thumb “historic” site. We have some data on this stream, but it has not received regular monitoring for 19 years! Thank you, Presley, for adopting Buckhorn Creek, which flows into Arbuckle Lake.



Two for One in Enid!

Briant provided Mickie and Sarah (Garfield County) with reagents for monitoring but first he spoke to the Garfield County Conservation District’s OSU Master Gardener Program.



Butterflies, Birds, and Bees OH My! With the Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project doing well in Tulsa, it seems that lots of people respond well to educational efforts that include creating food and habitat for our pollinators. Held at Brookside Library in the Crow Creek Watershed, 90 total people showed up and most of them took home little pots planted with showy milkweed, blackeyed Susan, and prairie coneflower. People also learned about preventing nonpoint source pollution and how to sign up for the Yard by Yard project.



Rogers State University Limnology students received a Blue Thumb staff visit to “dive deep” into Blue Thumb data for six different streams. Their professor, Dr. Cheyanne Olson, has assigned these students the task of understanding each stream’s data and completing an education project to take into the watershed of each stream. Blue Thumb staff will even be a part of grading these projects.



Blue Thumb helped the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts by being a part of two different sessions at the OACD state meeting. “What Makes a Strong Conservation District?” and “Teaching Climate Change” was offered, and Blue Thumb also staffed an exhibit and helped to set up a Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project exhibit.



Oklahoma City University Students

monitor Mustang Creek in Oklahoma County. They have also participated in their winter bug collection and quality assurance field experience with Kim Shaw and Briant Nguyen.

Bug collections have now ended, as the season for them is January 1 through March 15. The summer bug collections run from June 1 to September 15.



The City of Grove, Har-Ber Village Museum, Grand River Dam Authority, and Blue Thumb have been working together to offer stream, river, and lake protection information to folks in the Grand Lake watershed. March 9 we were at Har-Ber Village Museum (in Grove) on their opening day for the season. Our exhibit then went home with librarians from Grove and Jay and it will be displayed in both libraries this spring!



*Moyes County,
Jamie & Cartwright*



*Beaver County
Briant, Nick, and Don*



Cherokee County, Karen & Lizette



Osage County, Adam



Washington County, Susan



Osage County, Taylor and Brent



Blue Thumb Winter Field Activities Continue

Blue Thumb staff and volunteers continue to work together in the winter to make collections of benthic macroinvertebrates and complete quality assurance checks. Above are just a few of the people and places visited this season. In addition to these efforts, volunteers also continue their monthly monitoring on their streams.



**Welcome to
Blue Thumb!**

A webinar to:

- Offer an updated look at Blue Thumb
- Showcase Volunteer Stream Protection Projects
- Reveal why Blue Thumb won the Visionary Leadership Award from Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (November 2023)

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Blue Thumb
Water Quality
Education Program**

Join Us to Learn About Blue Thumb!

Go to the Blue Thumb website to learn how to tune into this webinar, or check it out later since it will be recorded.

www.bluthumbok.com

